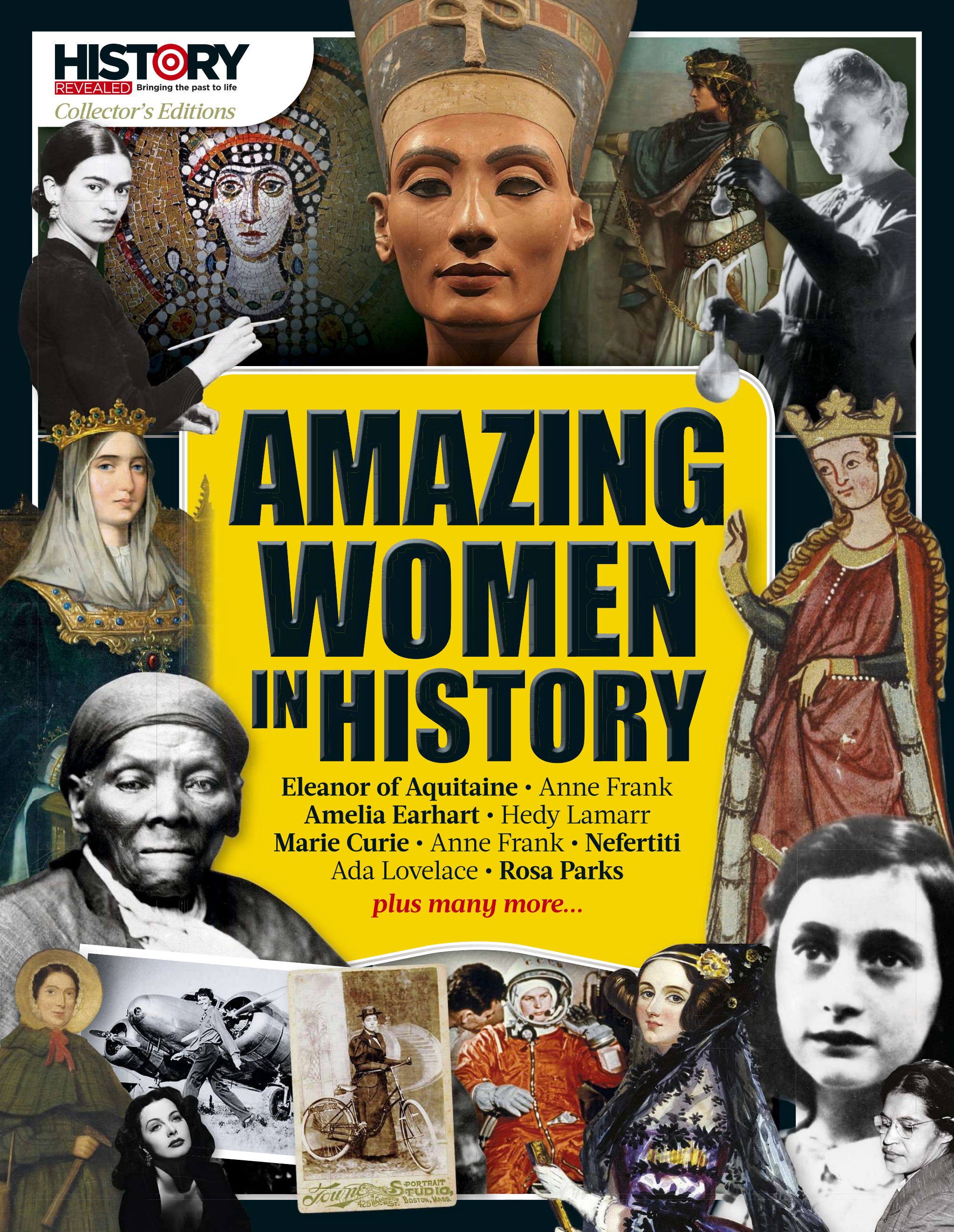


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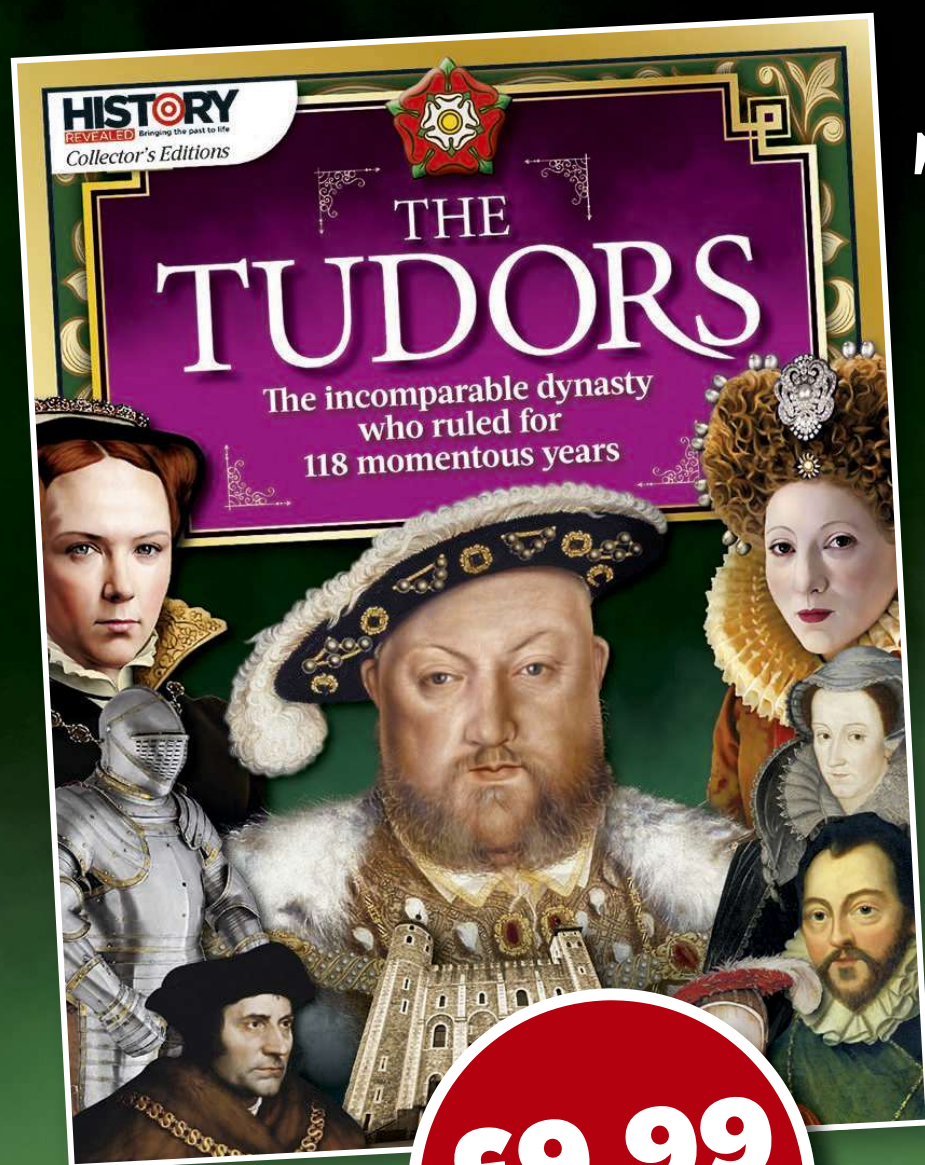
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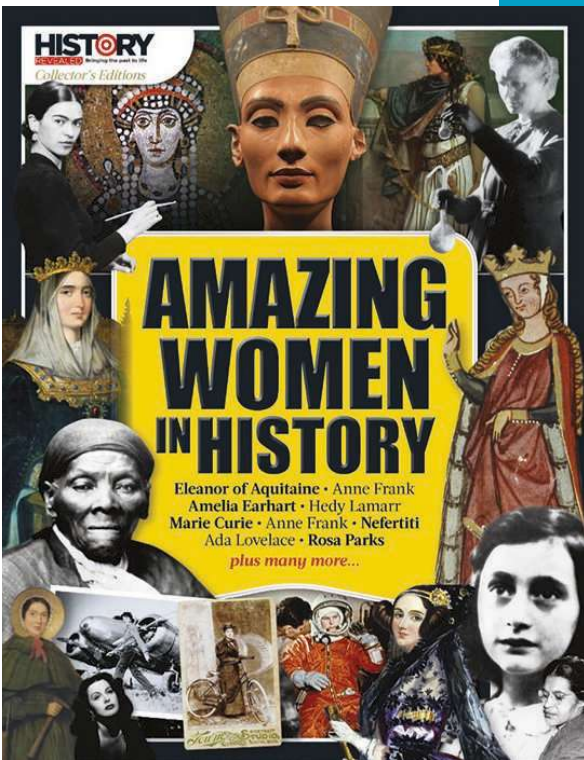
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In whatever field you care to mention, women have been at the forefront for thousands of years, and **in this special edition** of *History Revealed* magazine, we've compiled some of the most amazing stories from down the centuries.

From **powerful ancient rulers** such as Nefertiti and Zenobia, to more recent **pioneers of scientific** endeavour, like Marie Curie and Valentina Tereshkova, **these women have shaped history.**

But not all the women whose life stories we tell in these pages are household names – although we think they should be. Take Irena Sendler, for example, who **smuggled over 2,000 Jewish children** to safety during the German occupation of Poland.

Don't forget we have more stories of amazing women in every issue of *History Revealed* magazine – why not turn to **page 20 for details of how to subscribe to the magazine?**

Paul McGuinness
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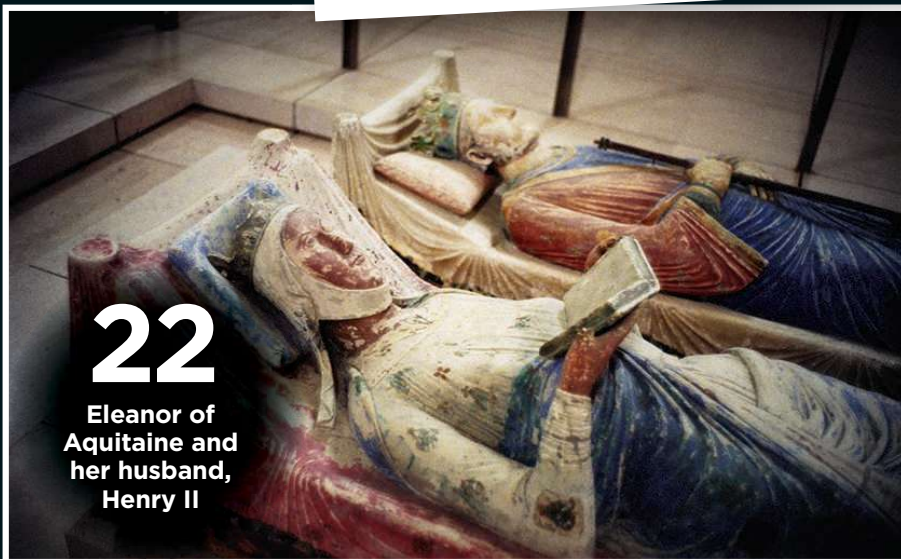
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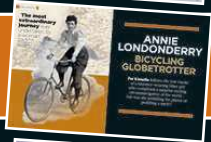
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**CROWNING GLORY**

Nefertiti can often be recognised by her distinctive 'cap crown', which would have been blue and gold with a Uraeus (cobra) above the brow

NEFERTITI

SECRETS OF EGYPT'S LOST QUEEN

Nefertiti ruled alongside her husband Pharaoh Akhenaten over a time of revolution, only to vanish from history. **Jonny Wilkes** investigates the mysteries of the timeless beauty

She stood, as wife of the pharaoh, at the apex of a dramatic religious revolution in Egypt, which dismissed the traditional gods of several millennia and replaced them with a single deity. She ruled from a new capital, built by her husband Akhenaten away from the intrigue of Thebes in order to centralise authority around the royal couple. She became the muse for radical artistic and cultural changes, meaning we see her today unlike any woman who came before, or even after. She is still lauded as one of history's great beauties – her name, after all, means 'a beautiful woman has come'. She is Nefertiti, perhaps one of Ancient Egypt's most important and influential female rulers.

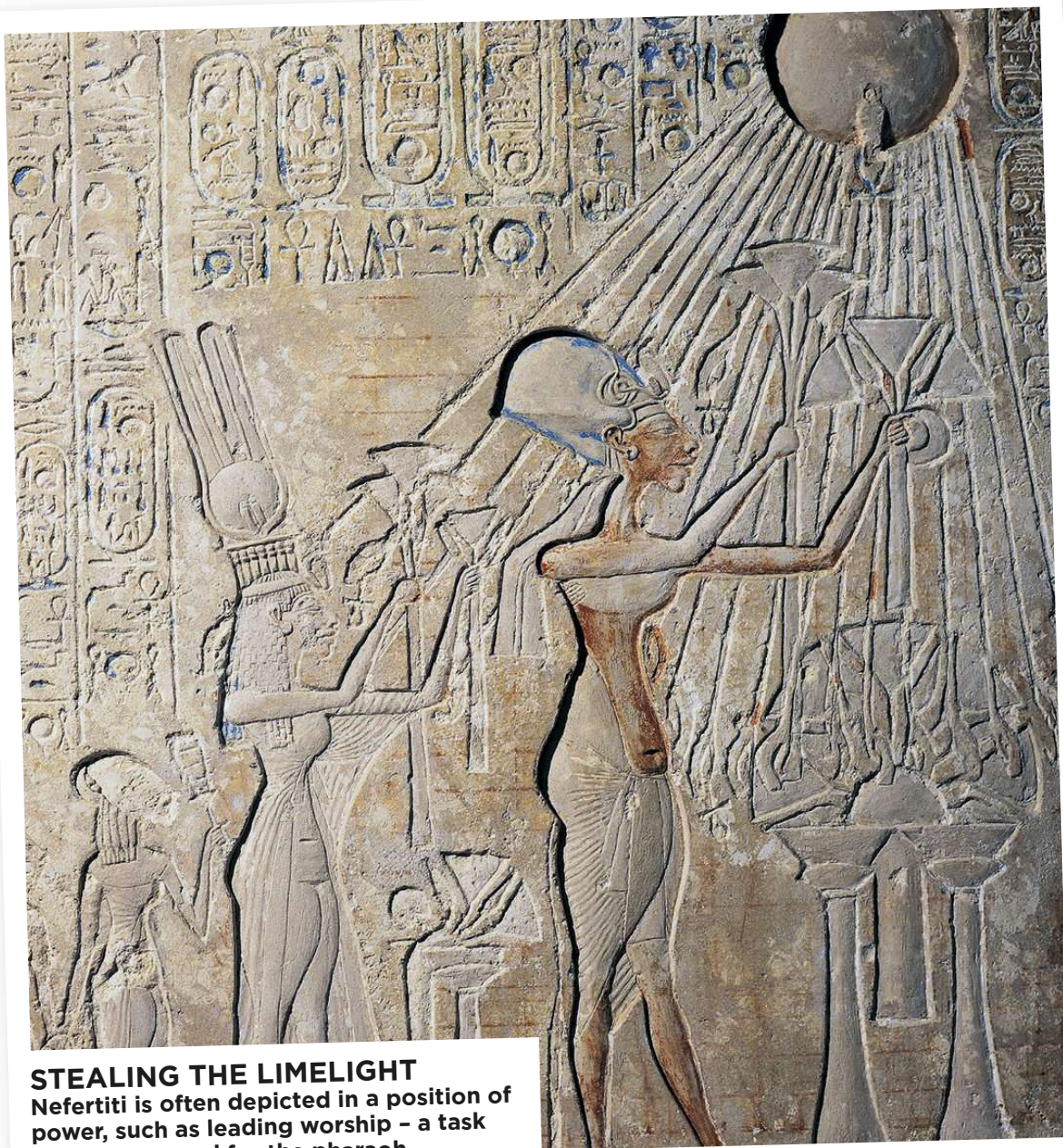
Thanks to the bust found in 1912, her face is recognised around the world and has become a symbol of her ancient civilisation, alongside Tutankhamun's death mask. Yet beyond her limestone gaze, Nefertiti's life, death and afterlife continue to bamboozle historians and archaeologists, who wonder if they will ever uncover the secrets of Egypt's lost queen.

The mysteries of Nefertiti begin with her very origins, more than 3,300 years ago during the



A scene in an Amarna tomb shows Nefertiti driving a chariot alone, suggesting a strengthened position

“Far from just being a trophy wife, Nefertiti appears to have been actively involved in her husband's rule”



STEALING THE LIMELIGHT
Nefertiti is often depicted in a position of power, such as leading worship – a task usually reserved for the pharaoh

18th dynasty. While one theory suggests that she may have been the daughter of a court adviser, Ay, who would go on to become pharaoh, there are some who claim that she wasn't born in Egypt at all. It is argued that Nefertiti could have been a teenage princess from Mitanni (modern-day Syria), sent to the kingdom to be married to an Egyptian prince, named Amenhotep IV when he succeeded the throne in c1353 BC.

In the first decade of their marriage, Nefertiti gave birth to six daughters – artists flaunted her fertility in the many stone wall reliefs of her – and there is reason to believe Amenhotep held genuine affection for his queen. He could hardly be deemed a loyal, monogamous husband, as he took other wives (including his own sister, which was far from unusual, and possibly some of his own daughters too), but he named Nefertiti as the 'Great Royal Wife'. Some other titles bestowed on her included, 'Lady of All Women', 'Sweet of Love', 'Great of Praises' and 'Lady of Grace', and in another gesture of his love, Amenhotep dedicated a temple in Karnak to his queen. The surviving artworks of the couple certainly portray a loving relationship, with them kissing in public, and one of Nefertiti sitting on Akhenaten's knee.

Far from just being a trophy wife, however, Nefertiti appears to have been actively involved in her husband's rule, and this only increased when he made the bold decision to challenge the gods.

RELIGIOUS REVOLUTION

The Egyptians worshipped thousands of gods, many of whom had their own temples and priests where offerings, sacrifices and rituals could be made. By the time Amenhotep became >

A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN HAS COME

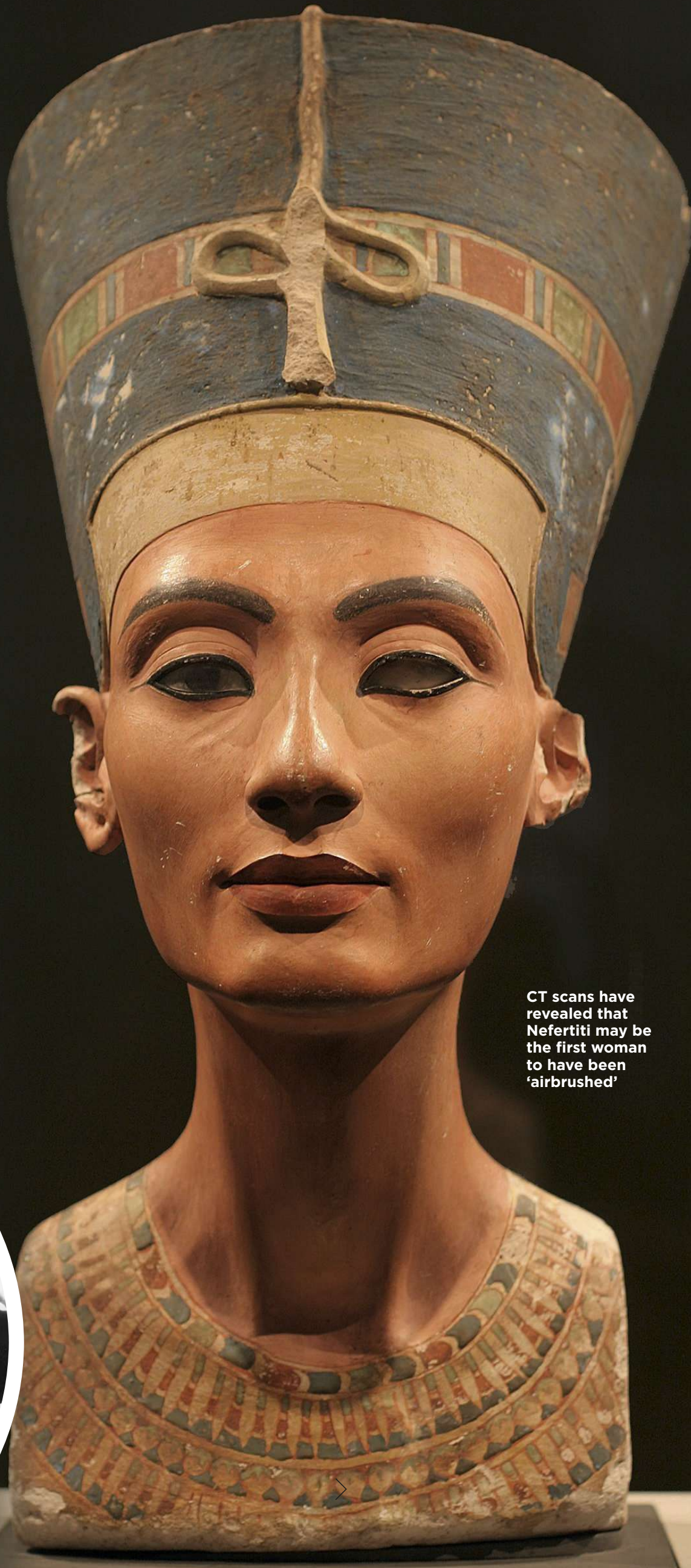
THE FACE OF NEFERTITI

“Suddenly we had in our hands the most alive Egyptian artwork. You cannot describe it with words. You must see it.” So read the diary of German archaeologist Ludwig Borchardt after his discovery, on 6 December 1912, of the now world-famous bust of Nefertiti. Found buried upside down at the desert ruins of Amarna, in the ancient workshop of the royal sculptor Thutmose, the limestone bust captures Nefertiti's timeless beauty – so much so that it now ranks as one of the most perfect faces of all time.

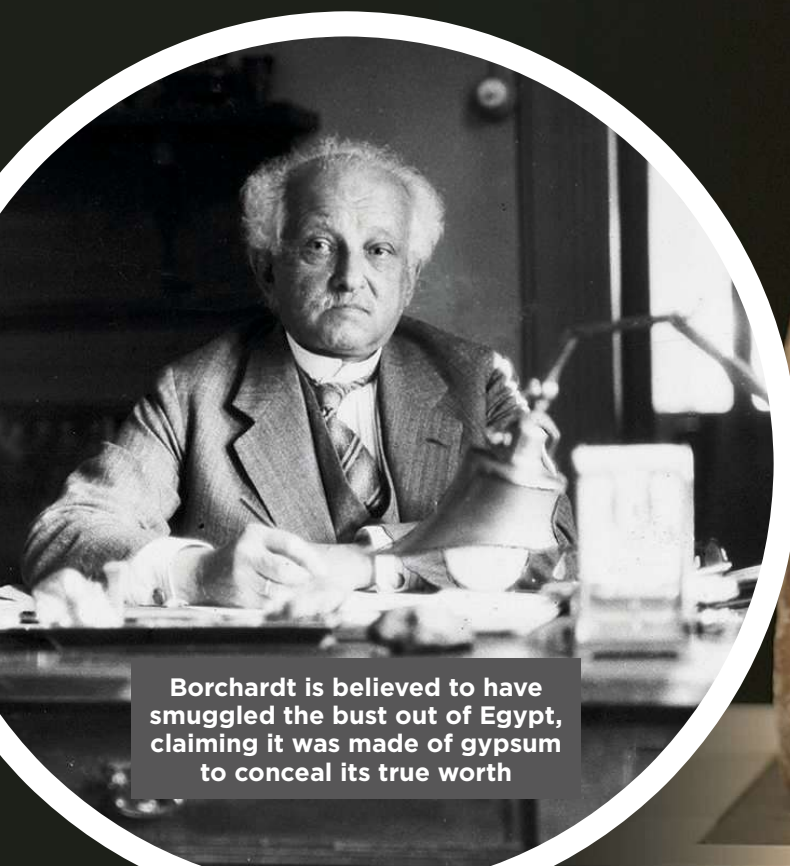
Her slender neck, high cheekbones, elegantly arched eyebrows and red lips – all while looking regal in her distinctive blue crown – ensured that Nefertiti is remembered as the ‘beautiful woman’ of her name, despite missing one of her quartz eyes. However, recent CT scans may change that picture, as it seems Thutmose covered over an earlier, less-flattering layer of stucco. It had a slightly bumped nose and wrinkles around the eyes.

The bust caused a sensation when it first went on display in Berlin in the early 1920s, as Ancient Egypt was all the rage in the aftermath of Howard Carter's discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb. It stayed in Germany, but during World War II, it had to be hidden in bunkers and a salt mine to keep it safe. Adolf Hitler adored the prized artefact, describing it as a “unique masterpiece, an ornament, a true treasure.” He declared he would build a museum for it, responding to Egyptian authorities requesting its return: “I will never relinquish the head of the Queen.”

In the near century since going on display, Egypt has continually demanded the bust be sent back, claiming that Borchardt hid its true value so he wouldn't have to hand it over to local authorities.



CT scans have revealed that Nefertiti may be the first woman to have been ‘airbrushed’



Borchardt is believed to have smuggled the bust out of Egypt, claiming it was made of gypsum to conceal its true worth

pharaoh, the cult of the supreme deity Amun had grown powerful and wealthy around the kingdom, with their centre at the capital in Thebes. The influence of these priests not only threatened his authority but undermined his worship of the little-known god Aten, the 'sun disc'. So in the fifth year of his reign, the Pharaoh laid down the law with major and controversial changes to religious practices dating back thousands of years.

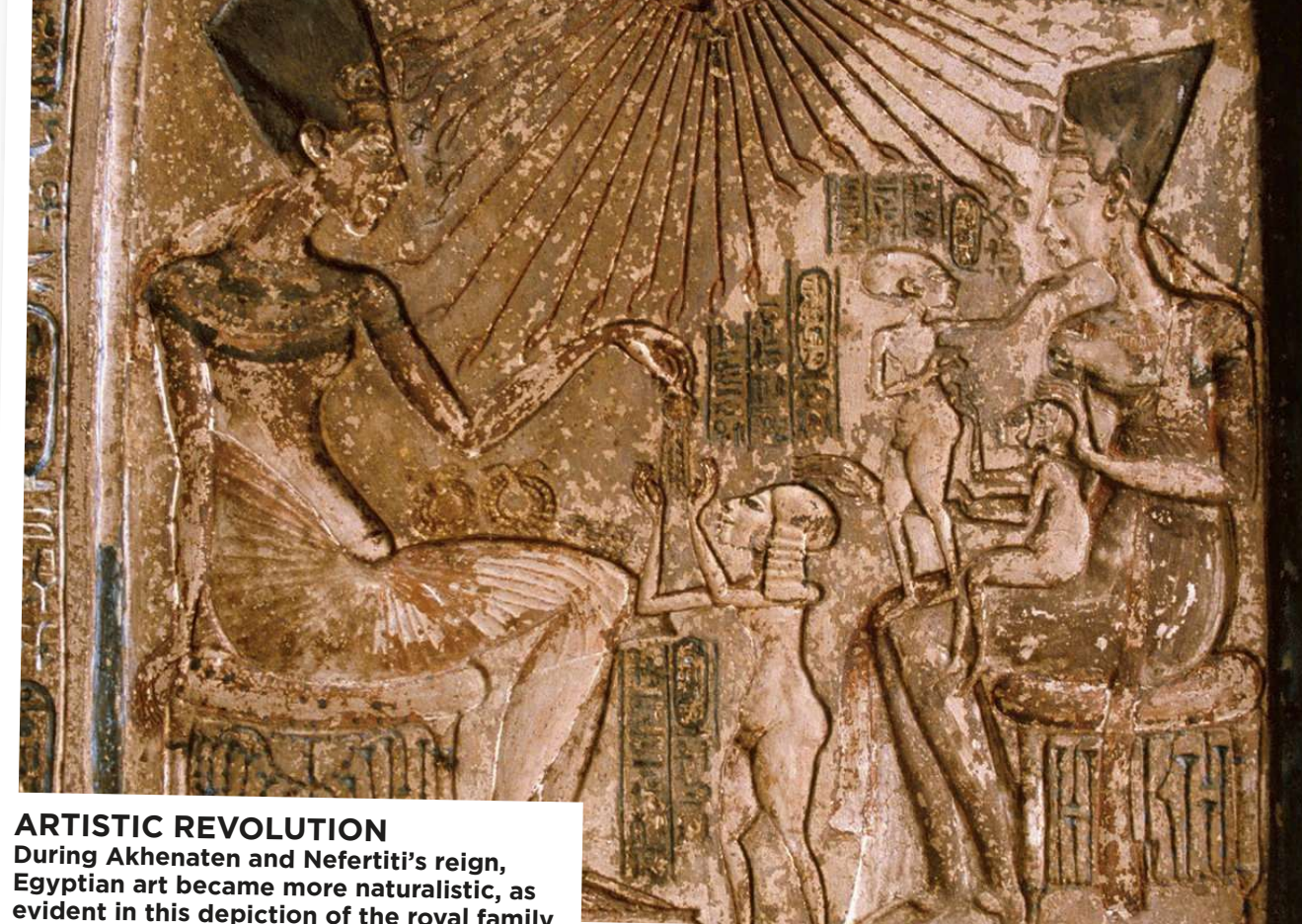
His religious revolution deposed the traditional gods and announced the Aten to be the one god worthy of worship. As a sign of devotion, he changed his name to Akhenaten, meaning 'beneficial to Aten', and ordered that a new capital be built in the desert as a centre of his cult. The city of Akhetaten, or Amarna, separated him from the old gods, all left behind some 200 miles to the south in Thebes, and symbolised a rebirth for himself. He wanted a new capital for his new religion, to go along with his new name. To that purpose, the centrepiece of Amarna was a mighty open-air temple – the Aten had to be worshipped in the sunlight, compared to the dingy rooms seen in the temples of the now-defunct gods.

Atenism heralded a dramatic break from polytheism, and it became only more pronounced in the following years. In his ninth regnal year, Akhenaten declared the Aten to be the only god (although there is still uncertainty over whether he actually denied the existence of the other gods), and that he and Nefertiti formed the only direct connection between the Aten and his people. He went as far as trying to erase the god Amun completely by repressing the cult and closing down the temples.

Not all Egyptians embraced the Aten, however, which led to quiet discontent around the kingdom, but Akhenaten's opponents had no option but to wait for him to die before they could try and salvage the old ways. As for Nefertiti, she stood by her husband's side, having also altered her name to add 'Neferneferuaten' to the beginning – her full name now meant 'beautiful are the beauties of Aten, a beautiful woman has come' – and she soon found herself at the heart of another radical change.

POWERS OF THE PHARAOH

From the young city of Amarna, where a greater sense of freedom may have bloomed, art transformed from the rigid, stylised figures we still associate with Ancient Egypt. This could have been down to Akhenaten's decree banning



ARTISTIC REVOLUTION
During Akhenaten and Nefertiti's reign, Egyptian art became more naturalistic, as evident in this depiction of the royal family

“Nefertiti simply vanished from the records, leading some to state that she died suddenly from a plague ravaging Egypt”

idols of the Aten – the only representation allowed was of a sun. So the focus of carved wall reliefs had to move away from idealised depictions of deities and, instead, showed the royal family of Akhenaten, Nefertiti and their children in more naturalistic poses, basking in the rays of the Aten.

The number of images we now have of Nefertiti is unusually high for a woman in Ancient Egypt, suggesting that Akhenaten intended future generations to consider her a crucial part of his reign from a political perspective, as well as personal. It's not just how often she appears, though, but what she's doing that hints at Nefertiti's influence.

She is seen performing actions expected of a pharaoh, such as leading worship, racing chariots and the ritual of smiting Egypt's enemies, and as she is regularly wearing her now-distinctive headdress, Nefertiti was

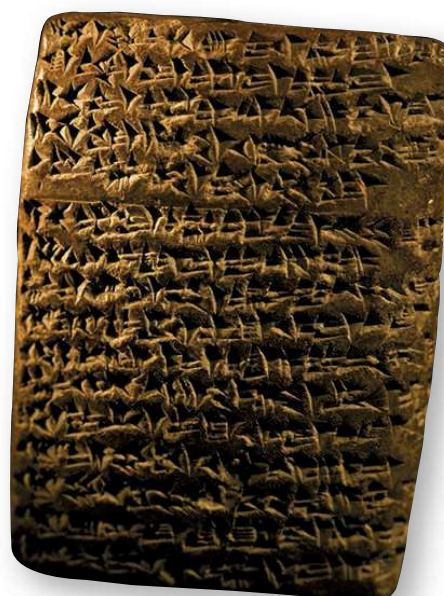
made to look like a powerful co-ruler rather than a doting wife.

THE QUEEN VANISHES

And then it stopped. In the 12th year of Akhenaten's reign, Nefertiti simply vanished from the records, leading some historians to state that she died suddenly from a plague ravaging Egypt around the time. A far more intriguing theory claims that Nefertiti became Akhenaten's official co-ruler for the latter years of his reign. The 'Coregency Stela', seven fragments of limestone tablets, depicts Akhenaten, Nefertiti and one of their daughters, but Nefertiti's name has been chiselled out and replaced with 'Ankhkheperure Neferneferuaten', a possible candidate for

Akhenaten's co-ruler. This name, in turn, matches the one Nefertiti gave herself.

It makes for a compelling argument, but it has proven extremely difficult to piece together the timeline of the end of Akhenaten's reign, c1336–34 BC. That is partly down to the backlash felt in Egypt in the wake of his death against his religious changes. According to the extraordinary



The Amarna letters reveal a breakdown in relations between Egypt and Mitanni during this period

48
the height, in centimetres, of Nefertiti's bust. The limestone artefact weighs around 20 kilograms

MICHELLE MORAN, author of *Nefertiti*
“She was the Cleopatra of her time. Just as beautiful, just as wealthy, and just as powerful – if not more powerful”

find of the 'Amarna letters', hundreds of clay tablets relating Egypt's diplomacy with other nations during Akhenaten's reign, he had grown obsessed with Atenism, at the expense of matters of state. Many Egyptians had never been happy with the sacrilegious dealings of their pharaoh anyway, and so quickly rejected the Aten, which allowed the former priests to regain power and bring the old gods with them. Certainly bold and revolutionary, but Akhenaten's religious experiment ultimately proved a failure.

His successors – among them his son (thought to be Nefertiti's stepson), Tutankhamun – denounced Akhenaten as a heretic and even attempted to expunge his name from the lists of pharaohs. What's more, Amarna was abandoned and left to fall into ruin just decades after its construction. The immediate desecration and the passage of more than three millennia mean that much of the evidence has been lost.

But a recent discovery of an inscription, found buried in a limestone quarry, has strongly suggested that Nefertiti still lived in Akenaten's 16th year, giving some credence to the theory that she became his co-regent. There are some who go further than this and believe Nefertiti to be the identity of an even later pharaoh, named Smenkhkare, despite the fact that he is depicted as a man. Such are the mysteries surrounding the end of her life.

HOTLY DEBATED

There is so much that we don't know, and may never discover, about Nefertiti. We don't know when or where she was born, how much effective power she wielded in her husband's reign, when she died or where she is buried. Yet there is no questioning the significance of Nefertiti in the pantheon of great female rulers of antiquity. While another Egyptian ruler, Cleopatra, is a more readily recognised name, she ruled over a declining Egypt, falling under the yoke of Rome, whereas Nefertiti lived at the height of the kingdom's power.

And if it weren't for two game-changing archaeological finds in the 20th century, we wouldn't even know as much as we do. It is ironic that the first, Nefertiti's bust, made the queen we know so little about one of the most recognisable faces from antiquity, with half a million people visiting the Neues Museum in Berlin every year to see her. The second find came nine years later, in 1922, when Howard Carter peeked inside Tutankhamun's tomb. The Boy King's relation to Nefertiti is still a hotly debated issue – with some thinking that she is, in fact, his mother – but Carter's find helped unlock some of the secrets of the latter 18th dynasty, and may have more to reveal. The digging for these long-lost truths continues. 🕒



Did Nefertiti rule as pharaoh after her husband?

Email: editor@historyrevealed.com

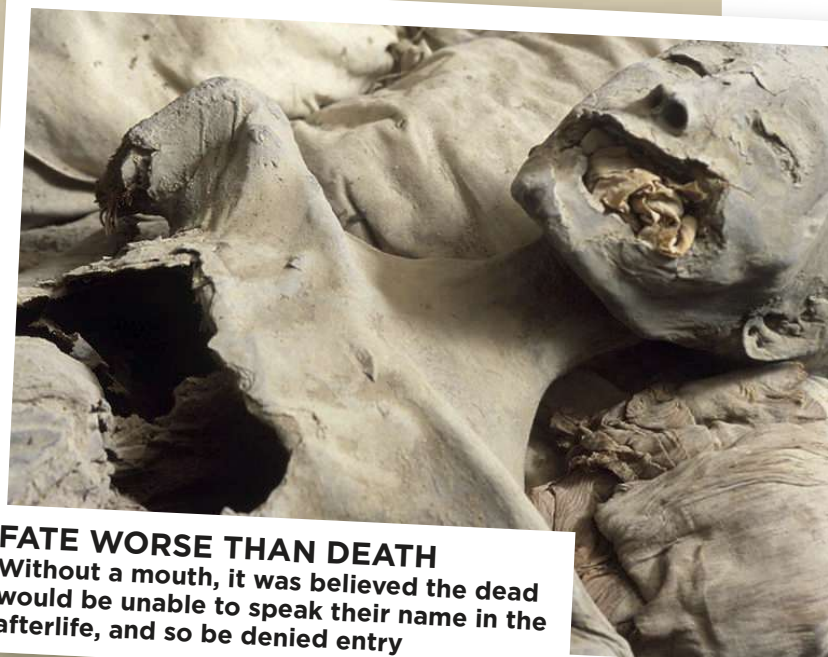
WHERE IS NEFERTITI?

If Nefertiti's life was mysterious, that's nothing compared to her afterlife...

THE YOUNGER LADY

Some historians believe Nefertiti has already been found and currently lies in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo. French archaeologist Victor Loret discovered the 'Younger Lady' mummy at a tomb, designated KV35, in the Valley of the Kings in 1898, but it wouldn't be until 2003 that archaeologist Joann Fletcher of the University of York declared it could be Nefertiti. She based her conclusion on a number of factors, although all circumstantial. Firstly, the mouth has been damaged and an arm removed, which could suggest desecration for her sacrilegious involvement in the cult of Aten. A wig of a style worn during Akhenaten's reign was also found in the tomb and fits the Younger Lady. Then there was the fact that the mummy had two piercings in her left ear – a rare thing in Ancient Egypt, but can clearly be seen in images of Nefertiti – and nefer beads on her chest that were the same type seen on Nefertiti's bust. Fletcher's belief is not universally accepted, however, and some claim that the Younger Lady is actually male.

It has been suggested that Tutankhamun is in fact the son of Nefertiti and Akhenaten



FATE WORSE THAN DEATH
Without a mouth, it was believed the dead would be unable to speak their name in the afterlife, and so be denied entry

TUTANKHAMUN'S TOMB

In 2015, British Egyptologist Dr Nicholas Reeves made headlines by announcing his belief that Nefertiti was buried in a secret chamber in the tomb of Tutankhamun. He claimed scans of one of the walls gave apposite signs of a void behind it, where the 14th-century BC queen remains entombed. As the Boy King died unexpectedly, Reeves argued that his body may have been rushed into someone else's tomb, which would explain why Tut's is on the small side. The theory has received criticism from other historians, but it does demonstrate the enduring fascination with Nefertiti and finding her mummy.



BEYOND THE WALLS

Experts have been using **radar** to search Tutankhamun's tomb for a **secret chamber**, which some believe to be Nefertiti's final resting place.





She looks regal here, but those gold chains are really shackles. This is Zenobia during her walk of shame through Rome

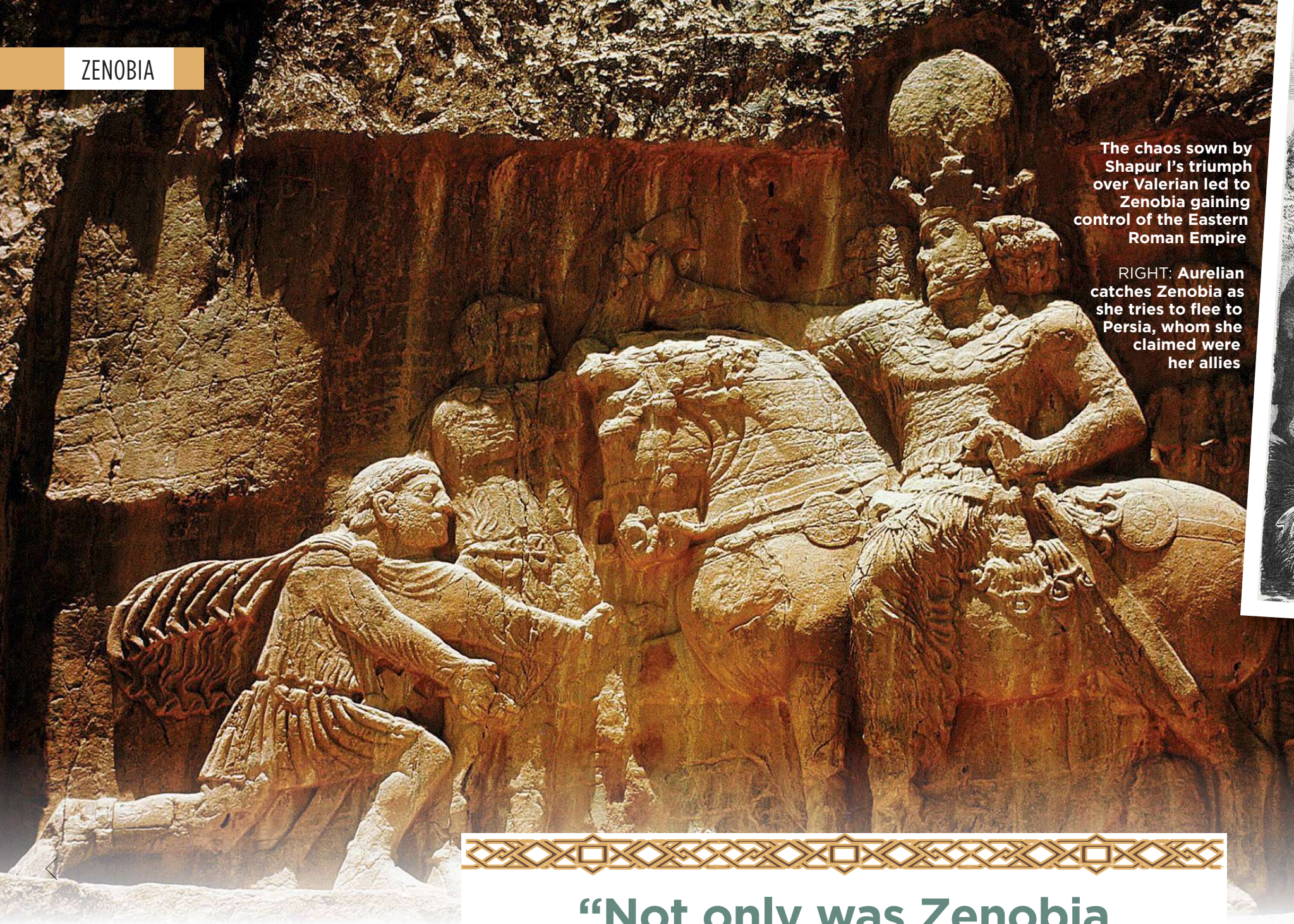
ZENOBIA

THE WOMAN WHO DARED TO TAKE ON ROME

Alicea Francis reveals how this
third-century Palmyrene ruler
carved an empire under Rome's
nose – and then lost it all

The chaos sown by Shapur I's triumph over Valerian led to Zenobia gaining control of the Eastern Roman Empire

RIGHT: Aurelian catches Zenobia as she tries to flee to Persia, whom she claimed were her allies



“Not only was Zenobia intelligent and athletic, she was also beautiful”

At the political heart of London, just outside the Palace of Westminster, stands a statue of a woman wielding a spear. Its presence serves as a daily reminder of Boudicca's defiance in the face of Roman invaders almost 2,000 years ago. But in Syria, a country ravaged by civil war, little remains to remind its people of their very own icon of Roman resistance: Zenobia.

Her story begins in Ancient Palmyra – the ‘city of palm trees’ – built on an oasis in the Syrian Desert. Though it's mentioned in tablets from the 19th century BC, it wasn't until its conquest by the Romans in AD 14 that Palmyra was put on the map. Rather than suffer at the hands of its occupiers, the city was granted autonomy and, in AD 106, the Silk Road was re-routed through it. The massive increase in caravan traffic fuelled the city's fortunes, thanks to the taxes imposed on the traders. Magnificent building projects were commissioned that showcased a fusion of Greek, Roman and Persian architecture. Palmyra was now a major centre of culture and trade.

It was into this thriving metropolis, around AD 240, that Septimia Zenobia was born. Her family were Roman citizens – a status that had been bestowed on her father's family – and

she received a good education in Greek, Latin, Egyptian and Aramaic. As a girl, Zenobia was put in charge of the family's shepherds, showing no hesitation when it came to commanding men. She became adept at riding horses, was a fine hunter and supposedly could drink anyone under the table.

AS ALLURING AS CLEOPATRA

Not only was she intelligent and athletic, she was also beautiful. A description of her in the *Historia Augusta* – a fourth-century Roman collection of biographies – recalls: “Her face was dark and of a swarthy hue, her eyes were black and powerful beyond the usual wont, her spirit divinely great and her beauty incredible. So white were her teeth that many thought [that they were] pearls.” Perhaps it was this combination of looks and brains that caught the eye of Septimius Odaenathus, the governor of Palmyra, whom she married when she was in her teens.

Rome, meanwhile, had fallen into crisis. In AD 235, Emperor Severus Alexander had been murdered by his own troops, beginning a protracted period in which Roman generals fought each other for the crown; 11 men would sit on the imperial throne over the next 20 years. The decaying empire fell victim to frequent barbarian raids in the western provinces, while in the east the Sassanids were growing in power.

In AD 253, the Sassanid ruler Shapur I launched an invasion of the empire's eastern territories. Emperor Valerian marched to confront Shapur's army, but in AD 260 he was defeated and captured at the Battle of Edessa. According to legend, he was used by Shapur as a footstool before eventually dying in captivity, after which he was stuffed and put on display.

The Sassanids began ransacking Roman cities in the region, and it seemed like only a matter of time before they would reach Syria. Realising that autonomy under the Romans



was far better than becoming a Sassanid footstool, Odaenathus organised a defence force. With Valerian's son Gallienus too busy dealing with the collapse of the western provinces to send aid, he instead made the decision to declare Odaenathus as 'corrector totius Orientis' – commander-in-chief of the whole East – and put him in charge of defending the frontier. He was now the de facto ruler of the Eastern Roman Empire.

For seven years, Odaenathus managed to keep the Sassanids at bay. But, around AD 267, he

was assassinated by an unknown conspirator, leaving the crown in the hands of his ten-year-old son by Zenobia, Vaballathus. As the boy was too young to rule on his own, Zenobia stepped in as regent. Having accompanied Odaenathus on his many campaigns, often choosing to march alongside the soldiers on foot, she had earned the respect and loyalty not only of Palmyra's people, but also of its finest generals. The transition, therefore, was smooth, and she was crowned Queen Mother of Palmyra within a day of her husband's death.

Though she was careful to acknowledge fealty to Rome, she asserted the right of her son to inherit his father's newly acquired title. But her subjects knew that it was Zenobia who held the reins of power. At court, she surrounded herself with intellectuals and philosophers, including the renowned Cassius Longinus. She dressed herself in the finest silk and jewels, and was waited on by eunuchs. As a ruler, she showed great tolerance towards her multicultural citizens and ensured the protection of Palmyra's religious minorities.

SHEDDING HER STRINGS

However, it soon became clear that she was not content to remain a Roman client. She began forging allegiances with other major cities nearby and, in AD 270, while the Emperor Claudius was busy fighting the Goths, Zenobia ordered her troops into Bosra – capital of Rome's Arabian province. With the city captured, the Palmyrene army continued south along the Jordan Valley, claiming the entire province, along with Judaea. With so much instability throughout the Roman Empire, they were met with little resistance. Claudius's name was removed from the region's coinage, replaced instead with that of Vaballathus.

Encouraged by news of Claudius's death that summer, Zenobia made her most daring move yet, dispatching her army to conquer Roman-occupied Egypt. The prefect there, Tenagino Probus, mounted a strong but futile defence, and committed suicide upon defeat.

With Zenobia now claiming to be a descendent of Cleopatra and the Ptolemies, she declared herself the legitimate successor to the throne



ABOVE: Soldiers hang on Zenobia's every word as she addresses them in this 18th-century painting RIGHT: The Palmyrene Queen had coins struck bearing her son's face to replace those featuring the Roman Emperors



FIVE MORE FEARSOME QUEENS



ARTEMISIA I
FIFTH CENTURY BC
◀ As Queen of the Greek city-state of Halicarnassus, Artemisia I personally commanded her navy in the Battle of Salamis as an ally of the invading Xerxes I of Persia. Xerxes, who watched the fighting from the shore, said: "My men have become women; and my women, men."

BOUDICCA
DIED CIRCA AD 60
The Queen of the British Iceni tribe, Boudicca led a revolt against the Romans after they ignored her late husband's will and took his kingdom for themselves. Her 100,000-strong army destroyed Londonium, but was defeated in the Battle of Watling Street.

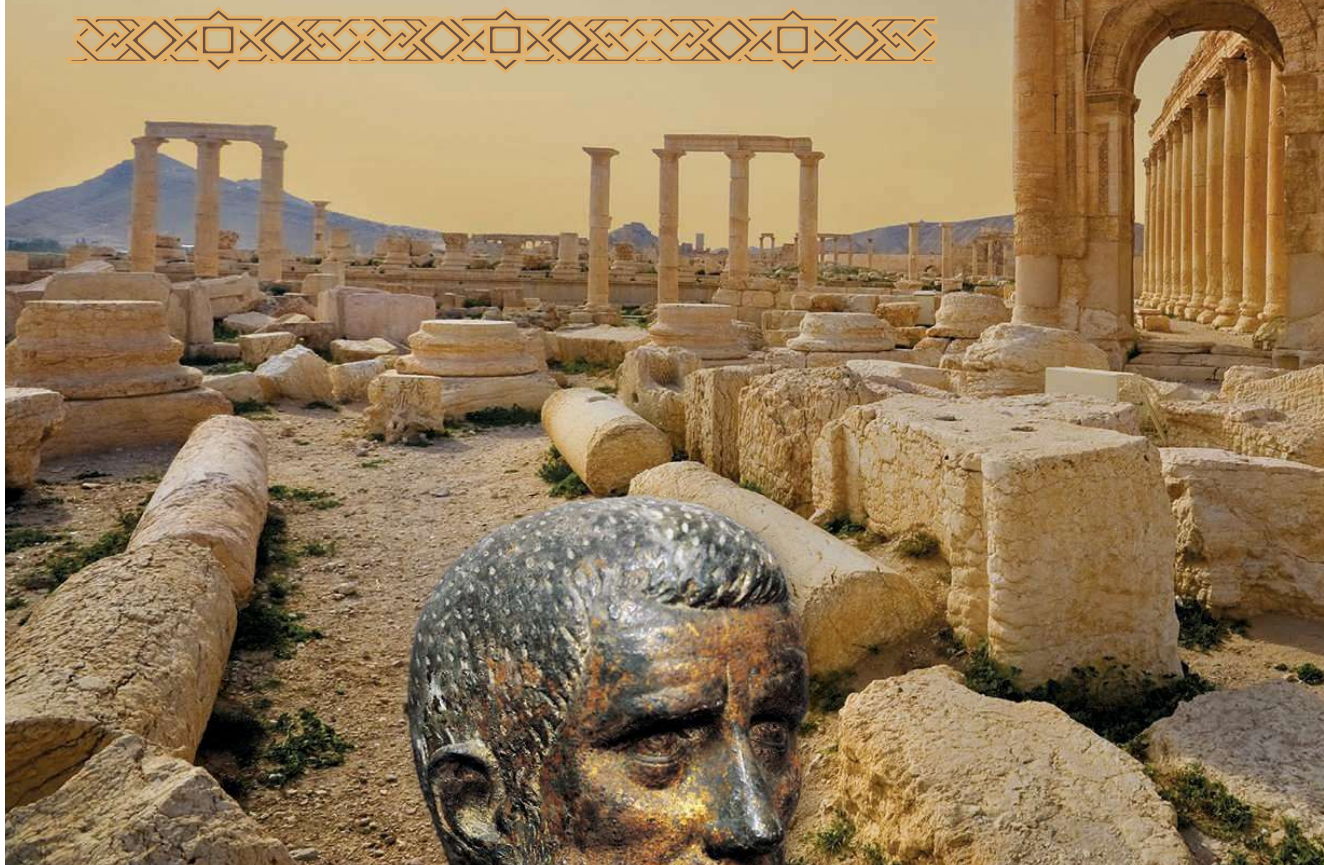
ÆTHELFLÆD
CIRCA AD 870-918
The daughter of Alfred the Great, Æthelflæd married Æthelred, Lord of the Mercians, to form an alliance between the kingdoms of Wessex and Mercia. After Æthelred's death, she led an army to victory against the Danelaw, which marked the beginning of the end for Viking rule in England.

NZINGA
1583-1663
◀ After becoming regent of Ndongo and Matamba (part of modern Angola), Nzinga led troops against the colonising Portuguese. Following a long struggle, the Portuguese requested a peace treaty, and she remained in power until her death aged 80.



LAKSHMI BAI
1828-1858
Lakshmi Bai succeeded to the throne of Indian princely state Jhansi as regent. When the British refused to acknowledge her and attempted to annex Jhansi, she mounted a spirited defence, but was eventually killed in battle.

"At her trial, Zenobia blamed her actions on her advisors"



◀ and Egypt became part of the ever-growing Palmyrene Empire. Finally, in AD 271, Zenobia invaded Anatolia, with her army getting as far as Ancyra (modern-day Ankara). By August, her empire was at its zenith.

In Rome, things were changing. Into the power vacuum had stepped Aurelian, an infantryman who had risen through the ranks to become Emperor; a soldier first and a politician second. With some stability finally established in the west, in late-271 Aurelian began marching east, simultaneously sending a fleet of ships across the Mediterranean Sea to reclaim Egypt. By April AD 272, he had crossed the Bosphorus and entered Anatolia.

OMENS IN THE NIGHT

One night, the great philosopher Apollonius came to him in a dream and said: "Aurelian, if you wish to rule, abstain from the blood of the innocent." The Emperor heeded his advice, and rather than raze the rebelling cities to the ground, he offered to spare them. The policy bore fruit, as other cities – seeing that surrender to a merciful Emperor was better than enduring a bloody siege they would likely lose – quickly gave up their arms. Ancyra was regained without a struggle and nearby Tyana put up minimal resistance.

Aurelian was Emperor until AD 275 – he was murdered on his way to battle the Sassanids

May AD 272 saw Aurelian and his men approaching Antioch, where Zenobia's forces were waiting for him. Their armies met in a field at Immae, where they squared off in traditional battle formations, with infantry in the centre and cavalry on the flanks. Aurelian

could see that the heavily armoured Palmyrene cataphracts (cavalry) were far superior to his own horsemen, but he realised that this could be used to his advantage. They charged towards each other but, just before they engaged, Aurelian's lighter cavalry broke ranks and began to retreat. The Palmyrene general, Zabadas, sensing victory, ordered his cataphracts to pursue them. But with the Syrian sun blazing down on their chain mail, they quickly became exhausted, and when they did so, the Romans turned back around and attacked. Very few of the Palmyrene cavalry made it back alive.

Zenobia and her surviving forces retreated to Antioch and, under the cover of darkness, fled south. But Aurelian was hot on their heels. When the armies met again at the Battle of Emesa, it was the Palmyrene cavalry who unwittingly broke ranks, enabling the Roman infantry to attack their vulnerable flank. Once again, Zenobia was defeated. All that was left was to defend her capital.



The Arch of Triumph, one of Palmyra's most spectacular ruins, was thought to commemorate Roman victories over Parthia

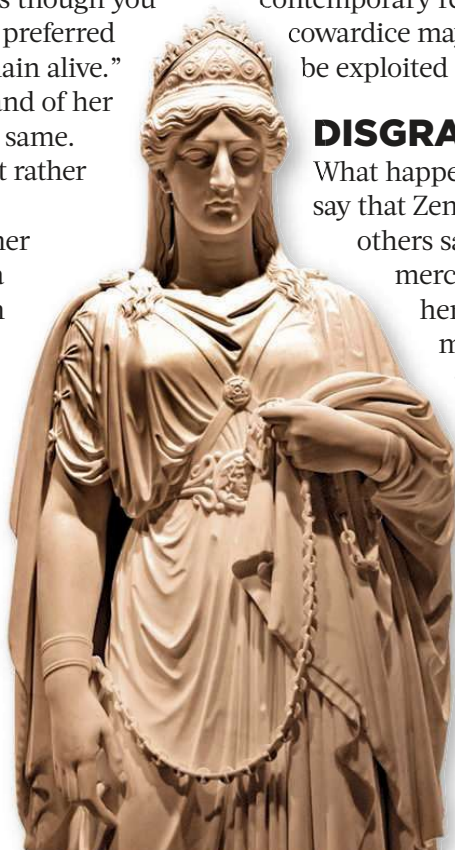
Back in Palmyra, Zenobia began preparing the city for a siege. But the Romans, now in control of much of the surrounding area, blockaded her supply chains, and her resources quickly ran dry.

A letter arrived that read: "From Aurelian, Emperor of the Roman World and Recoverer of the East, to Zenobia and all others who are bound to her by alliance in war ... I bid you surrender, promising that your lives shall be spared." But proud Zenobia was undeterred. She replied: "From Zenobia, Queen of the East ... You demand my surrender as though you were not aware that Cleopatra preferred to die a queen rather than remain alive." The last moment of her reign and of her life, she insisted, would be the same.

The city fell shortly after, but rather than follow the example of her supposed ancestor and die at her own hand, Zenobia mounted a camel and fled in the direction of Persia. She was captured before she could even cross the Euphrates River.

According to the *Historia Augusta*, Zenobia and her son were brought to Emesa for trial, where she blamed

Zenobia was not acknowledged as Palmyra's sole sovereign, even though she was in practice



REBUILDING PALMYRA

Following its capture by Islamic militants in May 2015, Palmyra was subjected to a 'cleansing' of its pagan heritage. Many of its millennia-old buildings and monuments were destroyed, despite promises by ISIL to leave them intact.

In response to the destruction, in October 2015 Creative Commons founded the New Palmyra Project, which uses public-domain photography of the city to build 3D models that could be used in its reconstruction. So far, two funerary busts have been restored, along with the Lion of Al-lāt, which now resides

in the National Museum of Damascus. Unfortunately, work on the city itself cannot begin until the violence in Syria ends, but it's estimated that 98 per cent of the site can be salvaged.

In the meantime, efforts are being made elsewhere to immortalise the fallen monuments. In April 2016, a replica of the 2,000-year-old Arch of Triumph – based on Creative Commons photography – was unveiled in Trafalgar Square. It has since been displayed in various locations around the world, including New York and Dubai.



All that remains of the Temple of Bel; it, like the Arch of Triumph, was destroyed by ISIL

her actions on her advisors – namely Longinus, who was sentenced to death. However, with no contemporary reports of the trial, this show of cowardice may just be a Roman invention, to be exploited as propaganda.

DISGRACE, NOT DEATH

What happened next is unknown. Some say that Zenobia was beheaded, while others say that Aurelian showed mercy, and she lived the rest of her life in relative comfort. The most famous version of the story describes how she was brought back to Rome and paraded through the streets in gold shackles, weighed down by so much jewellery that she could barely stand.

Palmyra too fell back into relative obscurity. The Silk Road was redirected

to bypass the city, and it remained little more than a minor legionary outpost for the rest of the Roman period. It was subsequently ruled by various Muslim factions, and finally reduced to a small village following its destruction by the Timurids in 1400.

Thankfully, much of the architecture from Zenobia's heyday remained intact, including the Lion of Al-lāt, the Temples of Baalshamin and Bel, and the Tower of Elahbel. They survived largely unscathed for a further 615 years, until, in 2015, Palmyra came under the control of ISIL during the ongoing Syrian Civil War. After surviving for almost two millennia, these ancient monuments, along with many others, were destroyed in the space of just five months. 📍



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Was Zenobia a courageous hero standing up to Rome? Or was she warmongering and power hungry?

email: editor@historyrevealed.com

EMPRESS OR TEMPTRESS?

Theodora was a **controversial** figure. Though some admired her, others such as Procopius sought to **tarnish her reputation**, calling her “the most depraved of all courtesans”.

THEODORA: EMPRESS OF THE EASTERN ROMAN EMPIRE

Meet the former-prostitute whose rags-to-riches tale made her arguably the most powerful woman in Byzantium

When faced with death, the Byzantine emperor Justinian was a cowardly figure. The same could not be said of his wife, Theodora. During a revolt in Constantinople in the year 532, Justinian was ready to make a run for it, but the audacious empress implored him to stay to save his reign. She arose from her throne and uttered the phrase “If you wish to save yourself, my lord, there is no difficulty... As for me, I agree with the saying that royal purple is the noblest shroud”.

But Theodora had not always been so majestic. Born in the hippodrome to a bear keeper and actress, she came from the lowest rung of society. Nonetheless, Theodora’s involvement with politics began at a young age. Her family were members of the Green faction, supporters of the corresponding Green hippodrome team, whose followers from the working classes possessed a degree of political influence. Their rivals were the Blues, a team backed by the upper and ruling classes, who also held considerable political leverage.

Her father died when she was young, so Theodora’s mother quickly remarried in order to avoid destitution. She attempted to get her new husband into the vacant bear-baiting position by parading her downtrodden children in front of the Greens. However, her emotional appeal was ridiculed and laughed at. Sensing an opportunity to steal support from their rivals, the Blues gave Theodora’s stepfather a job, saving the family from poverty. From this moment, Theodora’s loyalty remained with the Blues, a switch that would define her destiny.

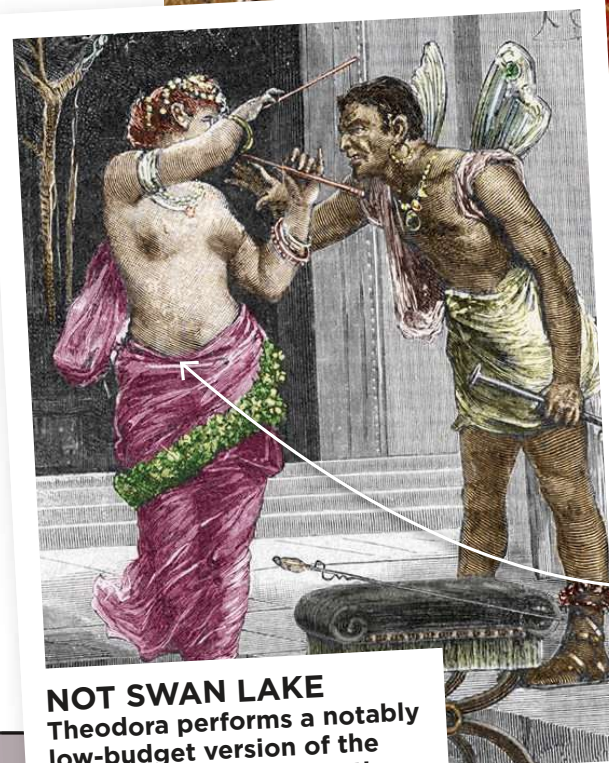
SHUNNED BY SOCIETY

As she grew up, Theodora took to the stage to earn money. Her childhood was spent performing circus tricks with her sister, and as she blossomed into a teenager, she moved onto more risqué performances. Soon, Theodora was known throughout the Empire for her interpretation of Leda and the Swan, the infamous Ancient Greek myth of Zeus turning himself into a swan to sleep with a young woman.

Theodora provided a colourful version of the story by scattering grain on her nether regions and encouraging geese to peck it from her. Off stage, wealthier clients would pay for her sexual services, and though it provided a source of income, it meant she was shunned by society.

At the tender age of 16, Theodora believed she’d found an escape from her former life when she journeyed with civil servant Hecebolus to his new posting in Libya. Here she lived as his mistress for four years, but he abused her and eventually threw her out onto the streets, penniless. Her determination saw her through, and she scraped together enough money to get herself and her infant daughter to Alexandria.

She encountered two influential religious leaders, who identified as Monophysite Christians. These so-called ‘heretics’ stood at loggerheads to the mainstream Orthodox Church, as they believed that Jesus never had a mortal form, and was an entirely divine being. Theodora’s interactions with them moved her so



NOT SWAN LAKE
Theodora performs a notably low-budget version of the Ancient Greek avian myth

“May I never see the day when those who meet me do not call me Empress”

Theodora, to her husband Justinian as he was preparing to flee



RUSTIC REGNANT

Justinian and his uncle Justin came from a **peasant family** in the Balkans. Justin rose up through the army to become emperor.

THESPIAN TEASE

Actresses in Byzantium were a far cry from the highly trained masters of the stage we know today. Their job included performing **salacious plays, dances and sexual favours** for paying customers.

PEARLY QUEEN

This mosaic in Ravenna, Italy is one of the few contemporary images of Theodora



EASY WAY OUT?

Theodora points out to her husband that a great escape may not be so wise after all

much that she converted, and remained steadfastly committed to Monophysitism.

BACK TO CONSTANTINOPLE

Theodora's luck began to change when she befriended Macedonia, a dancer and member of the Blue faction. With her help, Theodora was able to return to Constantinople, and even land a respectable job as a wool-spinner. Macedonia also introduced Theodora to future emperor Justinian, a valuable Blue ally. He was instantly infatuated with her beauty and wit, and desired to make her his wife as soon as possible. However, Theodora's past haunted her, and an old Roman law prevented high society from marrying former actresses. Justinian took advantage of his elderly uncle the Emperor in AD 525, and changed the law to let 'truly repentant' actresses wed those of high rank. They married almost immediately.

Two years later, Justinian and Theodora sat as rulers of the mighty Eastern Roman Empire. Theodora proved her worth during the Nika riots of 532. A fight between the Blues and Greens at the hippodrome culminated in a violent uprising, in which the teams both attempted to overthrow the dynasty and proclaim the unwitting commander Hypatius as emperor. Theodora was ruthless. After convincing her husband to remain in the city and face the rioters, they sent loyal

soldiers to the place where she grew up. The exits were sealed off, and in the massacre that ensued, 30,000 people were slaughtered. Hypatius was brought to the palace, and though Justinian was willing to spare the rioters' figurehead, Theodora wanted to make an example of him, and he was promptly executed.

In the aftermath, the royal couple set about restoring the stability of the Byzantine world. Theodora's work as empress was characterised by an increase in women's rights and religious tolerance. She fought for laws that banned pimps, proscribed the death penalty for rape, and gave mothers custody rights over children. She also ensured religious protection for Monophysites within the palace walls, even though Justinian himself was Orthodox.

Theodora died at age 48, probably of breast cancer. In her memory, Justinian continued to protect Monophysites throughout the Empire, despite his personal beliefs. The couple's mark on Constantinople is still visible today at Hagia Sophia, the breathtaking church they built together after the Nika revolts – a lavish display of their wealth and influence over the Empire. 📍



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Which other rags-to-riches tales should be remembered?

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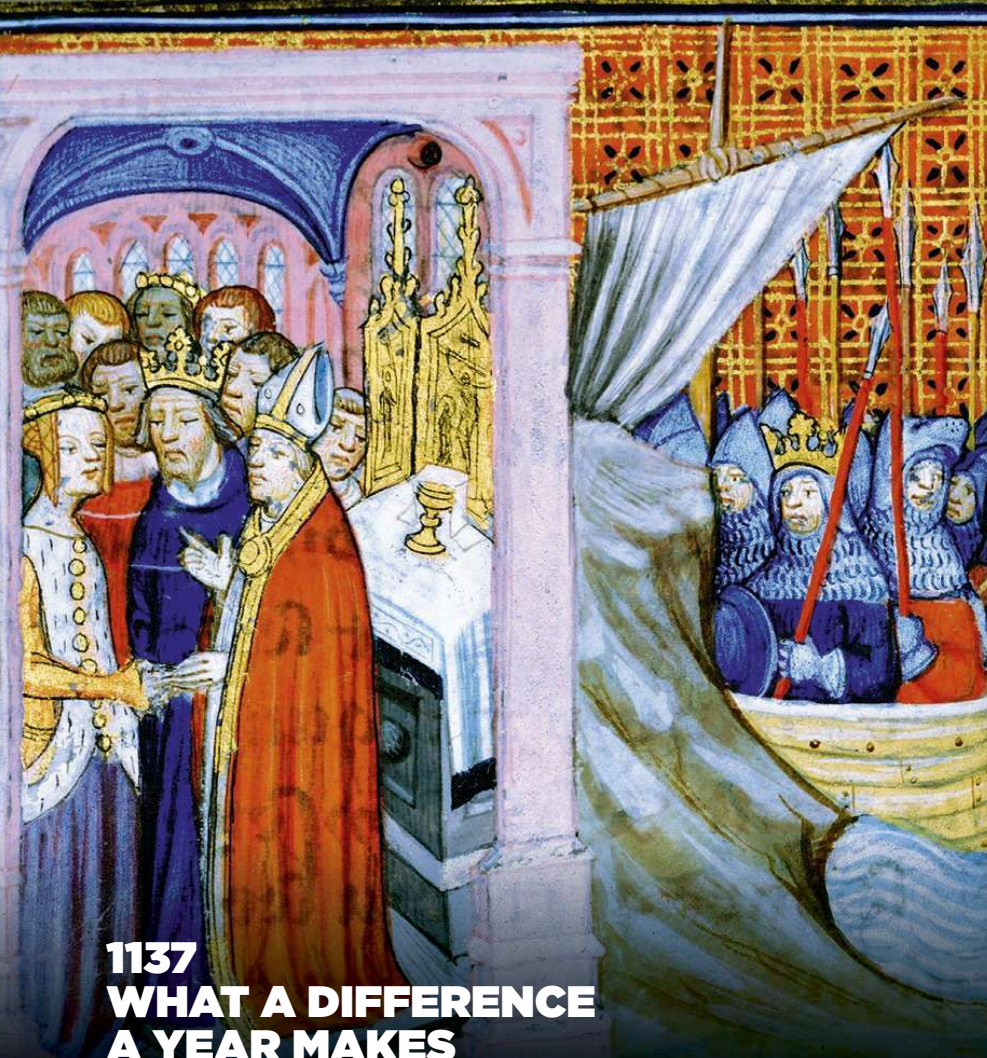
BRAINS AND BEAUTY

There are very few descriptions of the famously attractive Eleanor. Here she is shown in a 14th-century German painting

ELEANOR OF AQUITAINE

THE WOMAN WHO COMMANDED MEDIEVAL EUROPE

From teenage duchess to elderly mother of kings, one woman sat at the heart of European politics for six decades. **Jonny Wilkes** salutes super-shrewd Eleanor of Aquitaine



1137 WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES

At the start of the year, Eleanor – the daughter of the Duke of Aquitaine, aged around 14 or 15 – spends her days receiving an excellent education and riding her horse. By Christmas Day, however, she has not only inherited vast amounts of land and wealth, but has married the French Prince Louis and is crowned as queen consort.



1147 OFF TO THE CRUSADES

Eleanor travels with her first husband, King Louis VII of France, on the Second Crusade to the Holy Land, making the perilous journey to Jerusalem. Three years earlier, during a conflict with one of his lords, Louis's army

had captured and burned down the town of Vitry while 1,000 townspeople were taking refuge in the church. Louis feels so guilty over the massacre that he eagerly embarks on the Crusade in the hope of absolving his sins.

When her father died in 1137, Eleanor of Aquitaine, still just a teenager, became the most eligible heiress in all of Europe. She was not only beautiful, smart and tenacious, but the 15-year-old had inherited expansive territories in the south of France and a great fortune, making her the ideal choice of wife for the powerful or ambitious young men of the continent.

In a 12th-century world dictated by men, even wealthy women like Eleanor rarely had a say in their own life – the most important roles they could perform were as trading commodities (to be married off as part of political alliances) and to bear male heirs. It therefore seemed that Eleanor's future as a doting and loyal wife was laid before her and yet, for more than 60 years,

she refused to accept this fate. Politically shrewd and dynamic, she skilfully manoeuvred herself to the peak of European politics – rising to be the queen consort of both France and England – and established her own legacy as two of her sons would go on to be kings. Eleanor held her own in a male-dominated society to be, arguably, the most powerful woman of the Middle Ages.

THRUST INTO POWER

As the records of Eleanor's life are sketchy at best, there is no detailed description of her appearance, despite the abundant praise of her beauty, while the date of her birth remains unknown (although it is thought to have been in 1122). Daughter of William X, the Duke of Aquitaine and Count of Poitiers, Eleanor received a full and diverse education growing up in her father's court, which was viewed as

a centre of culture. Unlike other girls of the time, she was introduced to subjects such as literature, languages and philosophy. Then when her brother died young, Eleanor began receiving the requisite training to be William's heir, equipping her with a deep understanding of politics, power and court protocol.

The teenage Eleanor was a quick and avid learner, which turned out to be a necessity when her father fell ill and died suddenly while on a pilgrimage. Thrust into her inherited duchy, Eleanor now controlled a large domain – more land, in fact, than French King Louis VI, who, at her father's request, was made her guardian. Within hours of the King hearing the news, Eleanor had been betrothed to his heir, also named Louis. The pair were married in July 1137, shortly before the King died and Eleanor's 17-year-old husband became Louis VII.

In a matter of months, Eleanor went from duchess-in-waiting to queen consort of France. What's more, the unworldly and weak-minded Louis adored her for her intelligence, strength and, as described by contemporary writers, for being "perpulchra", meaning 'more than beautiful'. Eleanor, on the other hand, was not so devoted to her husband, allegedly announcing: "I thought I was wed to a king, now I find I am wed to a monk." For the first decade of their marriage, she exerted considerable influence over his rule

ALISON WEIR, HISTORIAN
"She was no shrinking violet, but a tough, capable and resourceful woman ... remarkable in a period when females were invariably relegated to a servile role."





1152 FROM ONE KING TO THE OTHER

Following the failure of the Crusade, and Eleanor and Louis' subsequent return to France, their marriage falls apart and eventually ends when a committee of bishops grants an annulment. Eleanor doesn't stay single for long, as she marries the heir to the throne of England, Henry, Duke of Normandy, only two months later.

– dominated by conflicts with his own lords as well as with the Pope – and gave birth to only one child, a daughter.

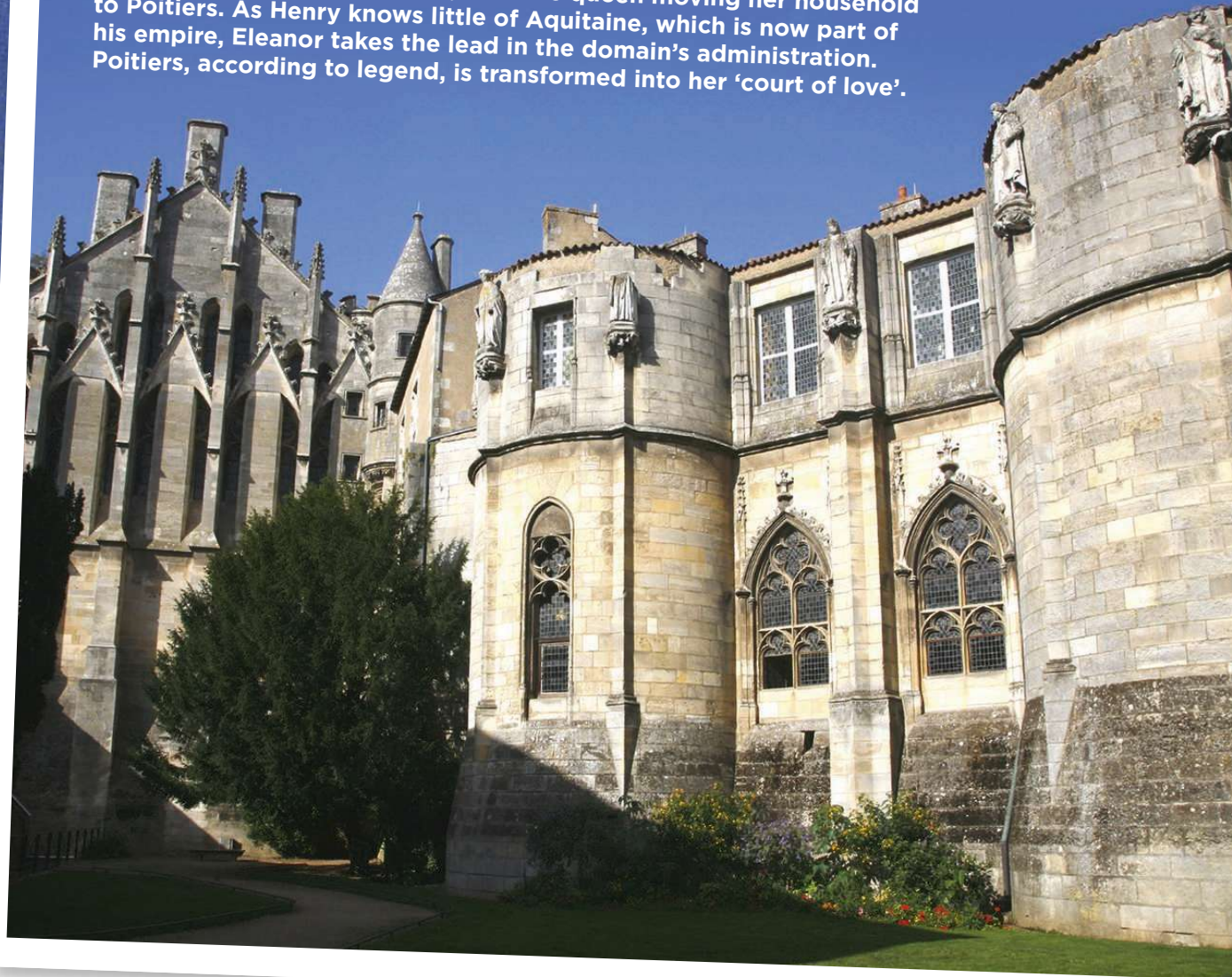
In 1147, in an attempt to restore favour with Rome, the pious Louis embarked on the Second Crusade to win control of Jerusalem over the Turks, and Eleanor made the surprising decision to accompany him. She knew that this meant a journey of thousands of miles over treacherous lands, risking disease and experiencing the

“Eleanor’s second marriage would change the political landscape of Europe and create a vast empire”

horrors of war, but Eleanor remained steadfast, even taking her own military support with her. The crusade was ultimately a failure and the greatest danger Eleanor faced during the two-year expedition came not from the Turks, but a scandalous rumour that she was having an incestuous affair with her uncle, Raymond, ruler of Antioch (in modern-day Turkey). As Louis' suspicions of his queen's behaviour deepened, the couple grew more estranged and Eleanor risked being accused of treason.

1167 POWER IN POITIERS

Although they have had five sons and three daughters together, Eleanor and Henry II separate, with the queen moving her household to Poitiers. As Henry knows little of Aquitaine, which is now part of his empire, Eleanor takes the lead in the domain's administration. Poitiers, according to legend, is transformed into her 'court of love'.



Yet, it was her who made the daring first move against Louis and began seeking an annulment on the grounds of consanguinity (meaning they shouldn't have been permitted to marry in the first place as they were too closely related by blood). Her efforts, which would have been unprecedented if successful, achieved nothing and she was forced to travel back to France with Louis and the remains of his doomed crusade. There seemed to be signs of a reconciliation,

there was even a plot to abduct her so she would be forced to marry Geoffrey, Count of Nantes, but Eleanor was warned and just able to escape. That said, despite this shocking abduction attempt, she did controversially marry Geoffrey's brother. Only two months after the annulment, and risking Louis' wrath, she was wed to Henry, Count of Anjou and Duke of Normandy – the grandson of King Henry I of England – in a small service at Poitiers Cathedral. Henry, 11 years her junior, was much more suited to Eleanor's personality as he was strong, courageous, bursting with energy, ambitious and charming, although he also had a ferocious temper. When he was crowned as Henry II of England in 1154, Eleanor's second marriage changed the political landscape of Europe and created a vast empire. Their shared domain stretched from England's northernmost border to the Pyrenees in the south of France. Eleanor spent many years travelling between England and France playing an integral part in the running of these territories.

Theirs was a fiery, tempestuous marriage. In some ways, it was very successful – Eleanor gave birth to eight children, with the three daughters going on to marry into Europe's ruling dynasties – but they also fought often. Eleanor strived for the same influence she had held over her first husband, but Henry was much more assertive and unwilling to delegate power, >

especially when a second daughter was born, but the relationship continued to deteriorate until, in 1152, Louis was eventually granted an annulment. Eleanor immediately left Paris and made for Poitiers.

EMPIRE BUILDER

Having regained Aquitaine from Louis, the newly single Eleanor, aged 30, was again a highly attractive prospect for Europe's bachelors. Such was her appeal for an alliance,



1173 FAMILY FEUD

One of Eleanor and Henry II's sons, 'Young Henry', flees to France to launch a plot to overthrow his father. There he receives the support of two of his brothers, Richard and Geoffrey. Eleanor sides with her sons, but is captured by her husband's forces before she can muster the nobles in Aquitaine. She remains a prisoner for 16 years.



1183 DEATHBED REQUEST

After years of rebelling against his father, young Henry falls ill. On his deathbed, he begs Henry II to show mercy to Eleanor and release her from imprisonment. Eleanor enjoys more freedom than she has for a decade, but is still a captive until the King's death in 1189.



1199 PROTECTING HER SON

When Richard the Lionheart is killed, John becomes Eleanor's second son to be crowned King of England. She previously fought against him when he tried to seize power, but now wholly supports his succession. Despite being very elderly, she works to negotiate peace alliances and defeats a revolt in John's French territories.

particularly to a woman. In 1167, Eleanor left Henry's court and moved her household to Poitiers, where she grasped the opportunity to rule Aquitaine in Henry's name. Why she separated from Henry remains debatable; some argued she resented the lack of power she was being given, while others claim she had grown angry at his increasingly flagrant infidelities.

Any loyalty Eleanor felt towards Henry had eroded by 1173, when one of their sons, 'Young Henry', launched a revolt in the hope of seizing the throne. He was joined by two of his brothers as well as Eleanor, who provided military support from disillusioned nobles in Aquitaine. The rebellion plunged the royal family into civil war and Eleanor was captured and imprisoned for the next 16 years. And although the King offered mercy to his surviving sons, the betrayal of his wife clearly cut deeper – he kept her captive until his death in 1189. Only when her son Richard (the Lionheart) came to the throne was Eleanor released.

After so long away from power, Eleanor was ardent in achieving influence in Richard's new regime, and she was rewarded with more than she could have hoped. As Richard had dreams of glory in the Third Crusade, he sailed to the Holy Land and left his mother to rule as regent, despite her being in her late 60s. Maybe after her own aborted effort in the Crusades, she

advised against Richard's actions, arguing that the priority should be securing his new and fragile throne. With him gone, she worked tirelessly to administer the laws of the land – which she did by personally moving from city to city with a royal retinue – and withstood the opportunistic coup led by her other son, John Lackland. When Richard was captured in Germany on his way home, it was Eleanor who collected the hefty ransom for his release.

SECOND SON

At the time of Richard's death in 1199, having been struck by an arrow at a siege, Eleanor

John was once again indebted to his ageing mother after her grandson, Arthur of Brittany, attempted to capture England's territories in France, only for Eleanor to muster enough men to rebuff him at Mirebeau in 1202.

It was 65 years after she had inherited her father's land and wealth in Aquitaine that Eleanor finally left the political arena. Retiring to the Anjou monastery at Fontevraud in 1202, she spent her last two years in increasingly poor health, dying on 1 April 1204. When she was buried, next to Henry II, the nuns at Fontevault described Eleanor as a queen "who

surpassed almost all the queens of the world". Her legacy and longevity would certainly be impressive on their own account, but the fact that she lived at a time when women were nothing more than political pawns makes Eleanor a heavyweight. She was

both king-maker and king-breaker, a woman who refused to accept the traditional position of her gender in a medieval world. 🎯

"The fact that she lived when women were nothing more than political pawns makes Eleanor a heavyweight"

ensured that her second son, 'Bad King' John, was crowned. She was approaching 80 but remained a dynamic political player. To show her support for John, she even crossed the Pyrenees in winter so that she could escort her granddaughter, Blanche, back to France to negotiate a key marriage alliance that would keep the peace between John and the French King. In the first years of the 13th century,

   **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

Who are the other women who fought to make themselves known in the medieval world?

Email: editor@historyrevealed.com



1204 ELEANOR'S END

Aged around 82, Eleanor dies at the monastery of Fontevraud, in Anjou, where she is buried alongside Henry II. The effigy on her tomb is the only likeness of her to have survived, but it is unlikely to be an accurate portrayal of her appearance. As a sign of her brilliant intelligence and political skill, she is seen holding a book.



“Two sons remain to my solace, who today survive to punish me, miserable and condemned. King Richard is held in chains. His brother, John, depletes his kingdom with iron and lays it waste with fire.”

Eleanor of Aquitaine

QUEEN OF HEARTS ELEANOR'S COURT OF LOVE

During her marriage to King Henry II of England, Eleanor was not only interested in holding power, but using it to promote culture and chivalry. In 1167, she set up her court in Poitiers so that she could rule Aquitaine independently of her husband. She supposedly transformed Poitiers into a model of etiquette and manners, where she encouraged her courtiers to live chivalrous lives. She was also a patron of poetry, welcoming troubadours to perform their romantic songs. The ‘Court of Love’, as it is now known, was a unique experiment that, it is

claimed, influenced literature and music long after it disappeared following her imprisonment in 1173. Few records remain, though, that prove the existence of the Court of Love at all.



LOVE LETTERS

This casket shows scenes of courtship from medieval love poetry, as showcased at Eleanor's ‘Court of Love’ in Poitiers

ISABELLA I OF CASTILE

The Spanish monarch responsible for the unification of her country, the Inquisition and mass deportation of Jews

Twenty-three-year-old Isabella first discovered that she was queen of the kingdom of Castile while residing in the turreted heights of the Alcázar of Segovia. Allegedly taken to the town square under a beautiful brocade canopy, she took her seat on the throne and the people cheered triumphantly. This occasion marked the start of a 30-year reign, which would see Granada recaptured from its Arabic rulers, Columbus's voyage to the New World and the launch of the Spanish Inquisition.

Born in a small village in central Spain in 1451, one could hardly tell that the young Isabella would be destined for greatness. Though she was originally second

Over the years, opposition to Henry's rule grew. The kingdom's noblemen desired more power, and believed that the solution was to have a monarch who owed his or her position to them. When they rallied around Isabella as their new figurehead, she found herself thrust into the limelight. But the wise princess favoured diplomacy, and reached a settlement with Henry. In gratitude, he named Isabella the heir to the throne.

THE BACHELORETTE

Though Henry had tried several times to create political unions by marrying off his sister, Isabella only had eyes for one man – Ferdinand of Aragon. The pair had

their marriage would unite two of Spain's most powerful kingdoms.

When Isabella was crowned on 13 December 1474, she was not without enemies. Some maintained that Henry's daughter, Joanna, was the rightful ruler. The King of Portugal, Afonso, quickly decided to betroth himself to Joanna and launched an invasion of Castile. So, Isabella and Ferdinand's early reign was consumed with fighting this civil war, eventually sending Afonso packing back to Portugal.

Having cleared the path of their foes, the 'Catholic Monarchs' (as they would become known) set about rejuvenating their divided nation. In 1482, they led a military campaign on the Moorish city of Granada, the last remnant of the Muslim conquest of Spain. The Queen personally

“The capable ruler had managed to restore law and order to a nation of bandits and repaired its financial system”

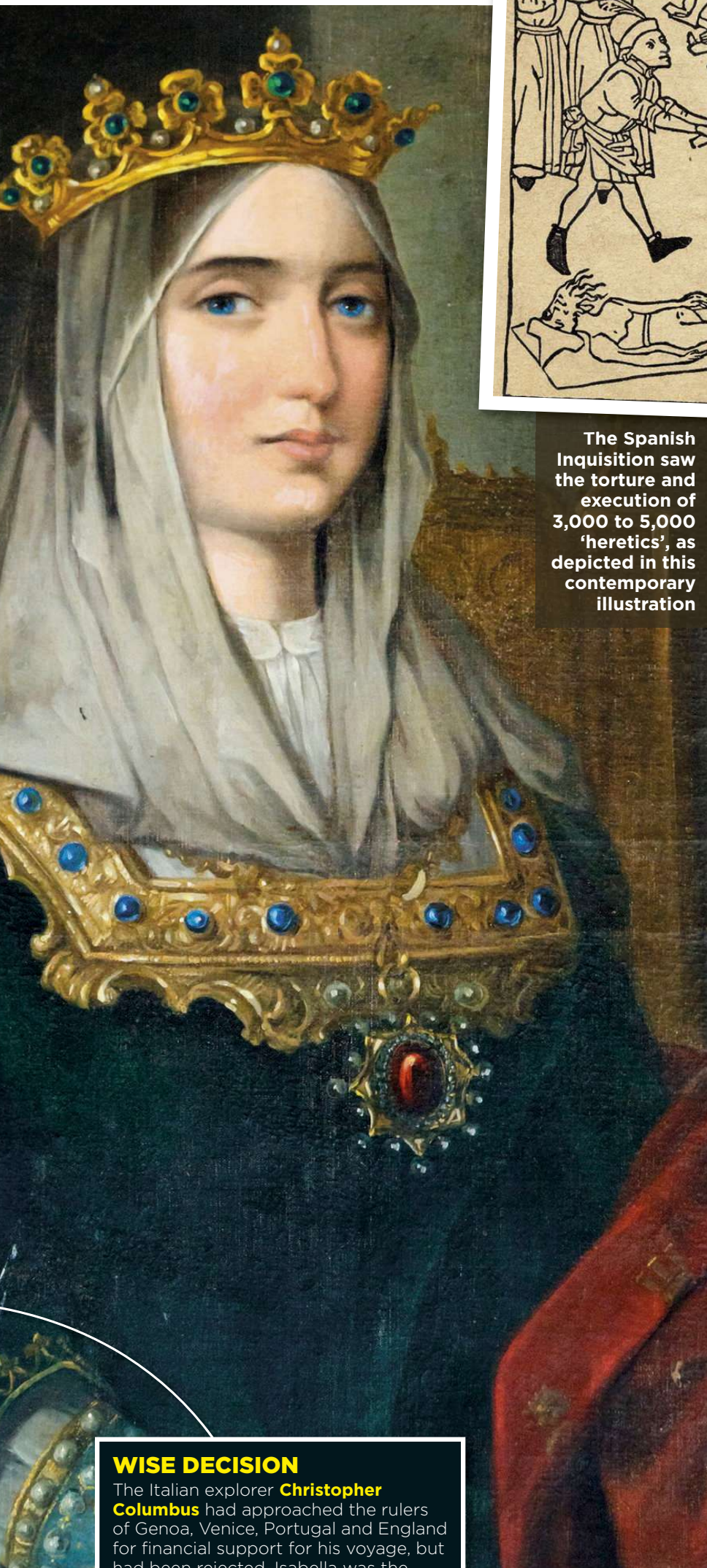
in line to the throne after her older half-brother Henry, she was soon relegated to third with the birth of another brother. When Henry ascended the Castilian throne in 1454, she and her mother were moved to a humble country castle with only the most basic provisions, probably because the new king saw them as a threat. The Princess whiled away her hours with her mother, who firmly instilled the Catholic fear of God into her daughter.

been betrothed when Isabella was just six, as Henry had been keen to ally with the neighbouring kingdom of Aragon. However, as Ferdinand's father grew more powerful, he no longer needed the security and withdrew from the arrangement. Despite this, Isabella and Ferdinand were secretly wed in 1469, and made a crucial prenuptial agreement that they would rule Spain as equals. An added bonus was that as rulers of Castile and Aragon,

AT HER MERCY

Hernando del Pulgar, a 15th-century Jew who converted to Catholicism, said of Isabella: “She was very inclined to justice, so much so that she was reputed to **follow more the path of rigour than that of mercy**, and did so to remedy the great corruption of crimes that she found in the kingdom when she succeeded to the throne.”





The Spanish Inquisition saw the torture and execution of 3,000 to 5,000 'heretics', as depicted in this contemporary illustration

took an interest in military matters, and even moved the government a few miles away from the battle site. Eventually, in 1492, they won out and expelled the Muslim caliphate from Spain altogether. Now they controlled a vast expanse of territory, and it looked as if the entire Iberian Peninsula could be united.

1492 would prove a big year for Isabella's reign. The Italian explorer Christopher Columbus visited the Queen and Ferdinand at the beautiful Alhambra palace, seeking royal approval for his planned voyage to India. Once he gained their support, he went on his merry way, only to stumble upon the Americas instead. Upon his return, he presented the monarchs with Native American slaves as a gift, much to Isabella's horror. She immediately demanded that they be released, and ruled that no native could be enslaved as they too were her subjects. Sadly, these policies were rarely respected.

DARK DAYS

While these momentous events were taking place, a sinister policy guided by Islamophobia and anti-Semitism was ravaging the nation. Early on in their reign, as a plot to unify Spain religiously as well as politically, Isabella and Ferdinand had forced a number of Muslims and Jews to convert to Catholicism. They then began the notorious Spanish Inquisition, an attempt to root out so-called 'heretics' from the ranks of new

Christians. The scale of torture, executions and pillaging was completely unprecedented.

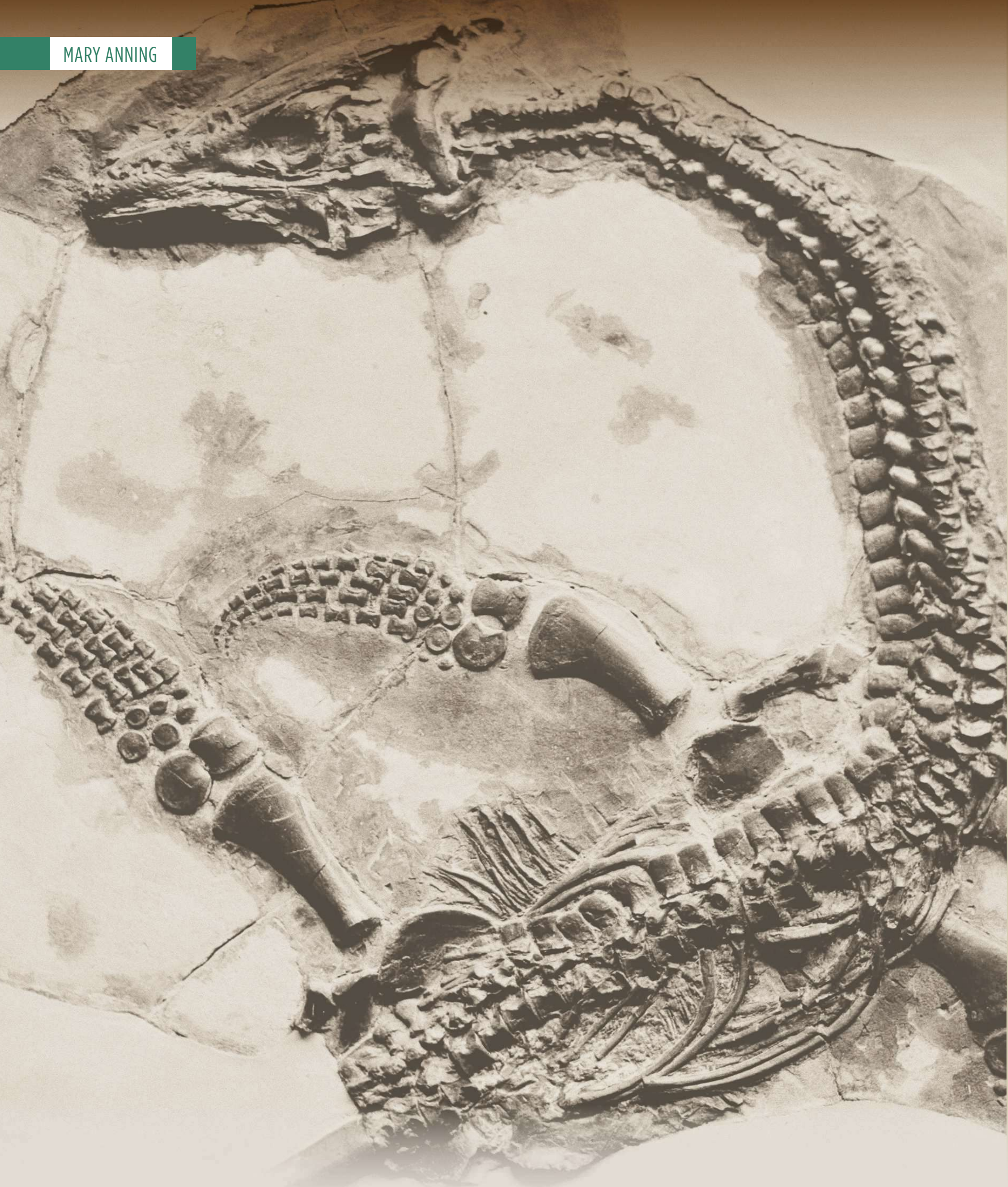
In 1492, all Jews were evicted from the Catholic Monarchs' territory, given only three months to leave and forbidden from taking anything valuable with them. Spain's newly acquired position as a world power was weakened, since the Jews formed a large part of the nation's economy. The loss of such a vital part of Spanish society took its toll on Isabella's reign, as did a number of personal tragedies she faced. In 1497, her only son and the heir to the throne, Juan, died before he reached the age of 20. To rub salt in her wounds, Isabella's 27-year-old daughter died in childbirth, followed suit by Isabella's baby grandson two years later.

The Queen died in 1504, and Ferdinand continued to rule Castile as regent for their daughter Joanna, uniting Spain with his conquest of Navarre. Her legacy on Spain was massive – as well as her foreign policy, the capable ruler had managed to restore law and order to a nation of bandits, reformed the Church, greatly improved Spain's military, and repaired its financial system. Isabella remains one of Spain's most revered monarchs. 📍

   **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**
Does Isabella deserve her reputation as a great ruler?
email: editor@historyrevealed.com

WISE DECISION

The Italian explorer **Christopher Columbus** had approached the rulers of Genoa, Venice, Portugal and England for financial support for his voyage, but had been rejected. Isabella was the only one to **grant him an allowance**, and as a result, he claimed much of the New World for the Spanish Crown.



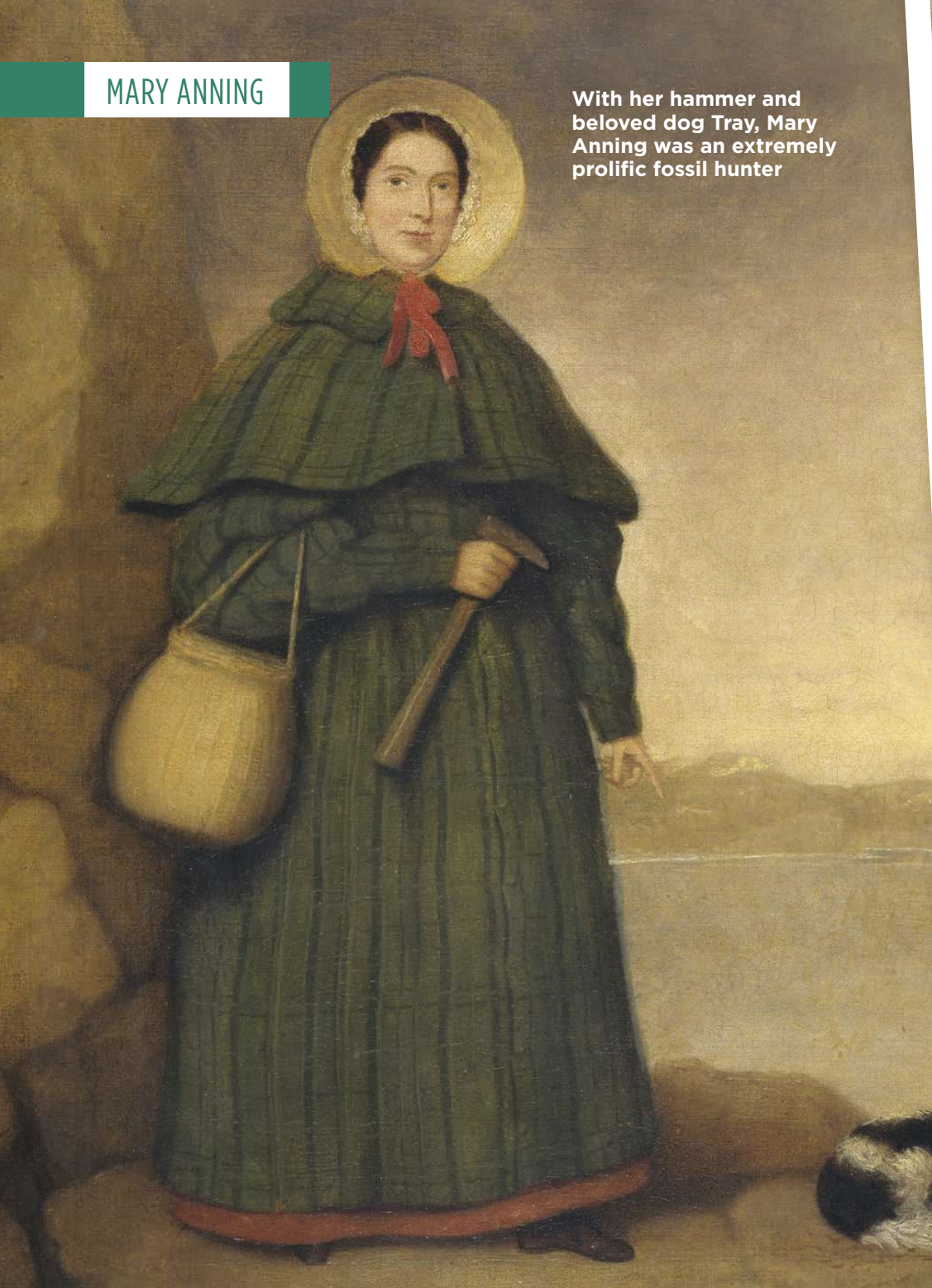
MARY ANNING

THE WOMAN WHO HUNTED DINOSAURS

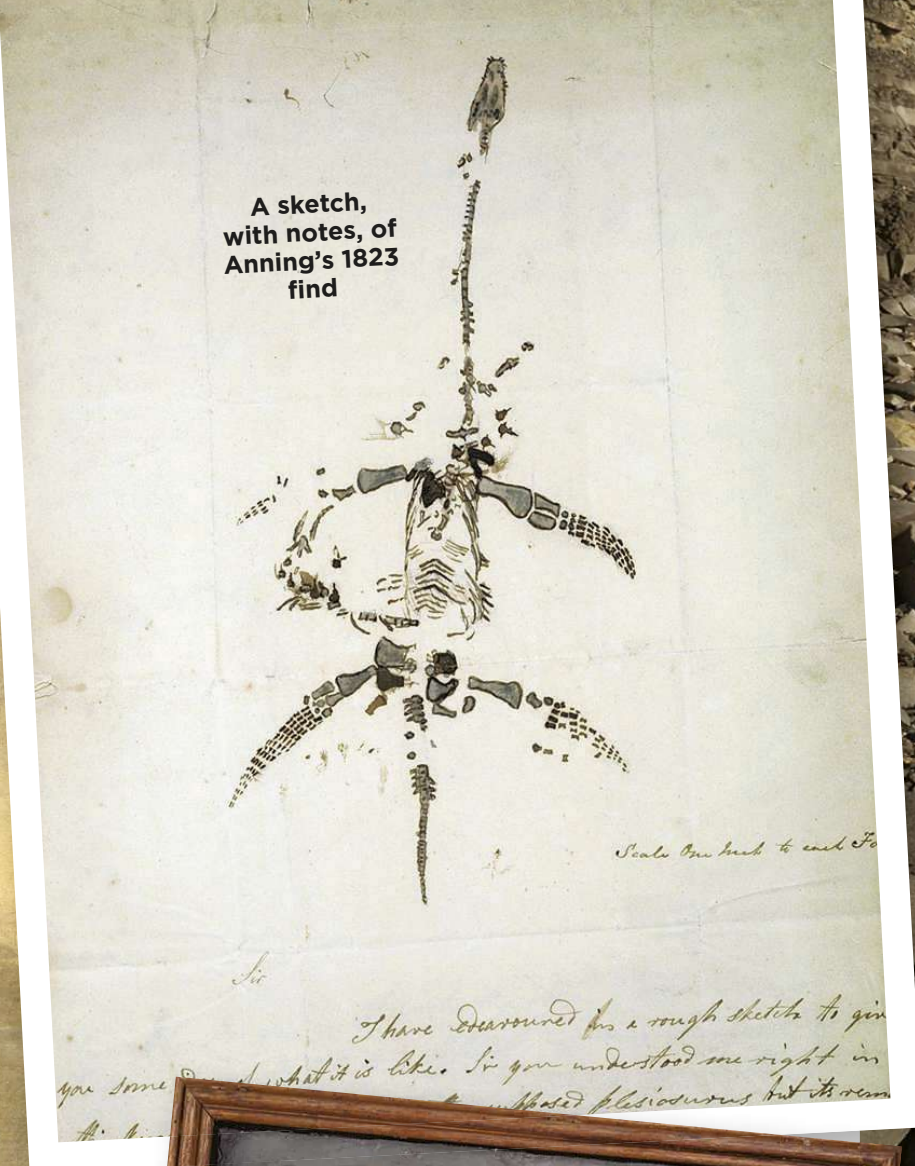
She was one of the greatest fossil hunters in the world, who became her own tourist attraction and was known to kings. Why then, asks **Rebecca Wragg Sykes**, is Mary Anning only now getting the recognition she deserves?

MARY ANNING

With her hammer and beloved dog Tray, Mary Anning was an extremely prolific fossil hunter



A sketch, with notes, of Anning's 1823 find



Mary Anning's life could easily have been snuffed out just as it was beginning. As a storm erupted over Lyme Regis, members of an audience who had come to enjoy the spectacle of a travelling troupe of horse riders took shelter under a tree. The sky flashed to life as lightning coursed through the tree and the bodies of three women huddled beneath its branches, killing them instantly. One of these women was holding her friend's baby, the infant Mary, but somehow the babe in her arms miraculously survived.

Throughout her life, Mary was quite extraordinary. At a time when women's acceptance by the scientific community was minimal at best, she was a pioneer in the science of palaeontology. Her discoveries were breath-taking, and her approach to understanding the fossils she found was brilliant. She made her greatest discoveries before the word dinosaur had even been coined

to describe the prehistoric beasts that roamed Earth millions of years ago. And yet through her work, by the time of her death at the age of just 47, our understanding of this prehistoric world was already beginning to take shape.

Today, the Natural History Museum proclaims her as the "greatest fossil hunter". But what made her so special? Like palaeontologists struggling to reconstruct entire vanished worlds from stony scraps, sketching her life relies on historical fragments.

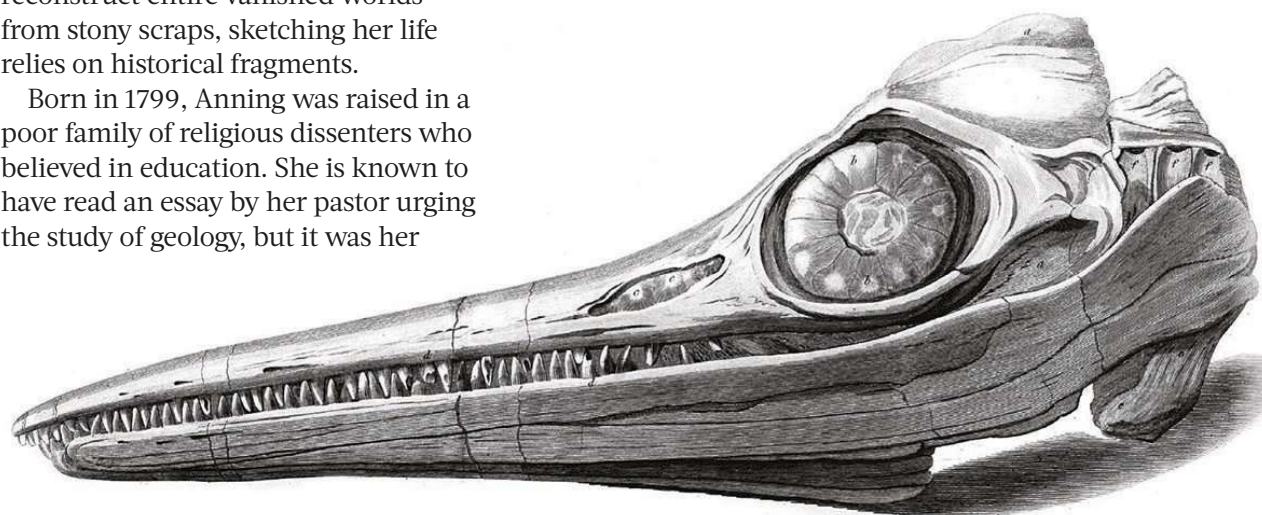
Born in 1799, Anning was raised in a poor family of religious dissenters who believed in education. She is known to have read an essay by her pastor urging the study of geology, but it was her

ABOVE RIGHT: Mary Anning's discoveries were great strides in palaeontology; the remains of fish can be seen in this ichthyosaur

BELOW: Her first ichthyosaur, excavated in 1812, inspired many illustrations

father Richard who nurtured her skill in fossil hunting. He scoured the beaches and seaside cliffs for objects to sell, to boost his income as a cabinet maker.

Sited next to extraordinarily rich Jurassic deposits dating back nearly 200 million years, Lyme Regis became known as a source of stony curios. As a child, Mary helped her father find, clean and sell these strange



The 95 miles of the Jurassic Coast offer fertile hunting grounds for ammonites



“At the age of 12 she dug out the most complete ichthyosaur yet found”

– and yet to be explained – vestiges of a mysterious bestiary, from ammonites to predatory reptiles.

Combing the beach was a profitable but dangerous enterprise. The cliffs could collapse without warning, and there was always the risk of falling from them. In later life, Mary experienced further close escapes when she was nearly consumed by a landslide that killed her beloved dog, Tray, and she almost drowned while lost in concentration digging out a below-tide find.

HER LEGEND BEGINS

In 1810, tragedy struck her family when Richard, in a weakened state after falling from the cliffs, contracted tuberculosis and died. The family was left in dire straits and it fell to Mary and her elder brother Joseph to turn a childhood hobby into a business.

Just a year later, they struck lucky. Joseph found a gigantic fossilised skull, which they initially believed might have

been a crocodile. As Joseph was too busy to excavate the rest of this creature, 12-year-old Mary took charge and, over the next few months, dug out the most complete ichthyosaur skeleton yet found, reaching a length of more than five metres long. A dolphin-like marine reptile, the ichthyosaur excited attention from museums and collectors alike. And yet the family income remained unstable.

Along the beaches of what is now known as England's Jurassic coast, the cliffs continued to offer up their prehistoric treasure to Anning's hammer. In the winter of 1823, she found the first almost-complete skeleton of a plesiosaur – the long-necked, four-flipped 'sea dragon' – a discovery that made her famous. The renowned French palaeontologist Georges Cuvier started referring to her as a collector of note.

In order to evaluate her finds and their potential value, Anning needed detailed anatomical expertise. She copied scientific articles by hand, but she was more than a sponge for the work of others. Curious and

SISTERS IN SCIENCE

Mary Anning is often presented as a rare creature, emerging from dingy circumstances to shine bright, but alone. This is far from the truth. She was part of an informal network of women geologists and palaeontologists, which went far beyond her friend Elizabeth Philpot. An older fossil collector she might have heard of was Etheldred Bennett. When Anning was establishing her business, Bennett had a respected reputation, published new species and received an honorary degree from Tsar Nicholas I of Russia.

Another member of Anning's connections was Charlotte Murchison. The impetus behind her famous husband Roderick's geological career, Charlotte was trained in fossiling by Anning. The Murchisons went on extended European field trips with geologist pair Charles Lyell and his wife Mary Horner. Charlotte also knew William Buckland's wife Mary Morland. And

it was thanks to a drawing by Morland – based on a sketch of Anning's – that Georges Cuvier was persuaded the plesiosaur skeleton Anning found in 1823 was real, having initially thought this “monstrous” creature must be a fake. From that point on, he began to cite Anning as an important collector.

Charlotte Murchison persuaded her husband to take up geology after he left the army



A WOMAN'S WORLD

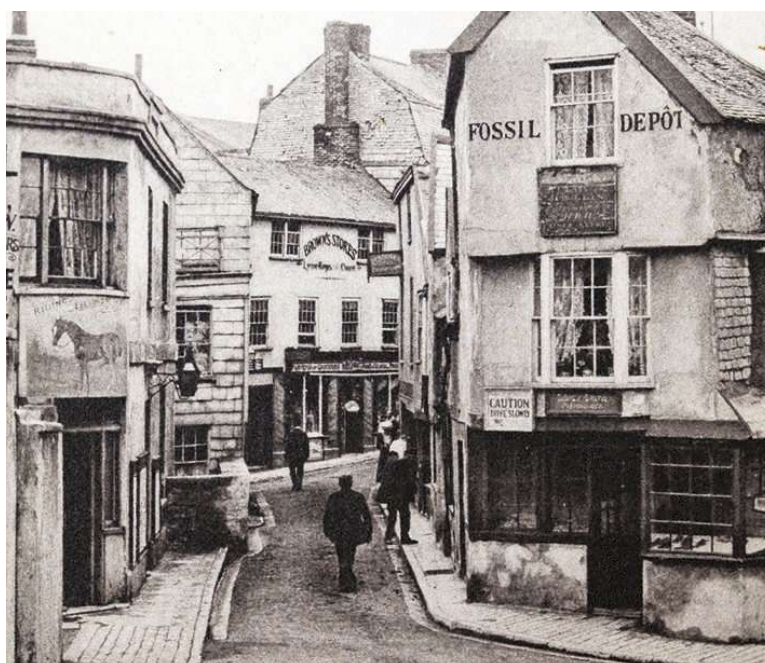
Mary Anning's death in 1847 came before the wheels bringing social equality for women really began to creak forwards. The Society for Promoting Employment of Women, an early feminist organisation, was only founded in 1859 and extensive education for women was still unusual. The more well-to-do women were freer to pursue intellectual interest for pleasure, and a surprising number of academic men had wives who were either motivators of, or unofficial collaborators in, their intellectual achievements.

By the 1830s, women were agitating for access to scientific circles. The mathematician and polymath Mary Somerville (*inset*) was friends with Britain's foremost geologist, Charles Lyell. Together with Anning's friend and fellow fossil hunter, Charlotte Murchison, she influenced him to admit female audience members to his lectures.

A few years after Mary Somerville died, a young woman called Catherine Raisin founded a women's intellectual club in her honour. In 1875, Raisin became the first woman to study geology at university and in 1884 – after full degrees were opened to women – gained a BSc in geology and zoology.



Anning's Fossil Depot in Lyme Regis, as it looked in 1895



In the scientific paper announcing her big plesiosaur find of 1823, her role is hidden behind the phrase that the skeleton had been “discovered at Lyme”. Even when some, like Cuvier, named her, none offered the opportunity to co-author. Her finds were desired, but Anning remained an outsider to the scientific community.

FRIENDS AND FOSSILS

Anning did, however, enjoy more equal fossiling relationships, particularly with women. A letter, now held at the University of Oxford's Museum of Natural History, written by her enduring collaborator Elizabeth Philpot, reveals how she became involved in a network of amateur female fossil collectors, geologists and palaeontologists.

Philpot, a middle-class spinster who had moved to Lyme Regis, went collecting nearly every day with Anning, but in contrast to her friend, she had no need to sell her hauls. They had an inventive collaboration too, as recounted in the letter. Anning realised that belemnites – a small, squid-like creature – contained ink sacs. After she shared this discovery, Philpot ground one up to make her own pigment, which she then used to sketch an ichthyosaur skull.

Together, they then sent this artistic and scientific co-production not to the prominent palaeontologist William Buckland, with whom they

After Mary Anning's observations, William Buckland came up with the term 'coprolites' for fossilised dung

had a regular correspondence, but his wife Mary Morland. Well before her marriage, she had cultivated an interest in fossils and illustrated for Cuvier, making her a skilled scientific draughtsperson.

While this letter opens a window on this part of Anning's life, it is still tricky to know what she was really like. A striking description by a visiting naturalist in 1837 focused on her energy, strength and tanned skin. Her only official portrait, painted late in life, is tinted by social decorum and time.

There is, however, a candid sketch by her geologist friend Henry De la Beche,

“There were claims that the lightning incident had changed her constitution”

showing a mature woman in plaid skirt and dark cape, intent on the ground beneath her. She carries a geological hammer, and on her head is not a bonnet, but a top hat. While untitled, it's hard to imagine who else this might depict, with its business-like focus and slightly maverick feel to the headgear. And we know De la Beche was close to the Anning family, as he donated profits from two reconstructions of fossil creatures he painted, based on her finds.

Anning acquired something of a legendary reputation. There were even fanciful claims that the lightning incident as a baby had a metamorphic affect, changing her constitution and personality. Whatever the reality, she had a spark of intelligence and drive.



ABOVE: There is affection in Henry De la Beche's watercolour of Mary Anning
ABOVE RIGHT: De la Beche also painted *Duria Antiquior - A More Ancient Dorset*, based on her finds of an ichthyosaur, plesiosaur and pterosaur

The same naturalist who noted her energy and complexion – and called her “the princess of palaeontology” – also found her to be masculine, which may refer to a blunt manner and unusual confidence. An alleged prickly character is perhaps understandable given what she overcame. In her own words: “The world has used me so unkindly, I fear it has made me suspicious of all mankind.”

Yet she wasn't down-trodden. Well aware of her expertise, Anning jokingly scorned Buckland's anatomical knowledge compared to her own, and she could be affectionate and generous. She kept her faith until the end, while beginning to accommodate evolution into her understanding.

Other insights into her personality can be gleaned from her commonplace book, a volume containing handwritten prayers, poems and quotations. Such a practice was not out of the ordinary, but Anning's demonstrates her ability to pick out gems amongst the Jurassic jetsam.

The book includes strikingly apposite literary selections, including poems that reference the “outcast's mis'ry”. Most poignant is a decidedly feminist quote from letters by Anna Seward: “Nothing but an independent fortune can enable an amiable female to look down, without misery, on the censures of the many, and even in that situation their arrows have power to wound.”

TOWARDS IMMORTALITY

At the height of her expertise, Anning died of breast cancer aged 47. Her Commonplace Book whispers to us of a woman who rightly desired a legacy for her talent. Yet if she had been born into more fortunate circumstances, it

is possible that she might never have discovered her vocation.

Nearly two centuries on, Anning would no doubt be gratified at renewed interest in her work. She is increasingly a fixture in variations of ‘Ten Inspiring Women...’. But her status as a historic role model wasn't foisted on her by the 21st century.

Anning was deeply inspiring to young women who knew her personally. The 14-year-old Frances Augusta Bell came to Lyme Regis for health reasons and found friendship, and a palaeontology tutor, with the older Anning. Another young friend and correspondent was Anna Maria Pinney, who wrote in her journal, “I really love Mary Anning”. A telling posthumous account notes that Anning had become such a tourist attraction in her own right that after her death, visitor numbers to Lyme Regis decreased.

In palaeontology, the best route to immortality is via the naming of a grand fossil species. Other 19th-century women were honoured in this way during their lifetimes, but in the years following her death, Anning accrued just a couple of extinct molluscs, fish and coral. Finally, in 2015, she was bonded in perpetuity to a relative of one of the marvellous monsters for which she became famous, a new species of Ichthyosaur named *Ichthyosaurus anningae*. 📍

GET HOOKED

READ

Kindred: Neanderthal Life, Love, Death and Art (Bloomsbury Sigma) by Rebecca Wragg Sykes will be published in 2019

DISCOVER

TrowelBlazers celebrates women archaeologists, geologists and palaeontologists. www.trowelblazers.com

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY

Perhaps the best-known evidence of Mary Anning's scientific legacy is that she is widely believed to be the subject of *She sells seashells by the sea shore*. Her discoveries and self-taught work, although dismissed by a few as the efforts of simply a lucky collector, deserved far more than a tongue twister. And she did it without the equal access or opportunities that were given to her male contemporaries.

Anning's remarkable fossils are still in demand for research. One of her plesiosaurs is at the Natural History Museum in London, along with some ‘flying dragon’ pterosaurs. The latter are looked after by senior curator Dr Lorna Steel. In an echo back to the young Lyme fossil hunter of two centuries ago, Steel accepted a donation in 2013 of a newly discovered pterosaur, *Vectidraco daisymorrisae*, named for its discoverer, five-year-old Daisy Morris.

Despite a growing recognition of Anning's achievements, including a new wing at Lyme Regis Museum and an upcoming biopic, she has no statue in her hometown. That is something local girl Evie Swire wants to put right. You can learn more about her recently launched campaign, Mary Anning Rocks!, at www.maryanningrocks.co.uk.



TRUGANINI: THE 'LAST' ABORIGINAL TASMANIAN

As one of the last speakers of a Tasmanian (Palawa) language, Truganini has an important and unique place in history

Pre-colonial Tasmania, an island off the coast of Australia, was a place almost frozen in time. People were governed by ancient tribal traditions, and lived their lives as their ancestors had done. It was in this context that Truganini, a Palawa girl born in 1812, grew up. However, the arrival of European settlers several years previously had torn the community apart. Racial violence known as the 'Black War' broke out, claiming the lives of many Aboriginal men, women and children. By the time she was 17, Truganini had seen unspeakable horrors – her mother, uncle and fiancé had been brutally murdered, her sister abducted, and she herself had been raped.

LAST HOPE

The colonial authorities launched a two-pronged strategy, in order to end the war and bring the native peoples under control once and for all. Bounties were offered for the capture of Indigenous Tasmanians, while some settlers made an effort to appear friendly, to lure them into containment camps on remote islands. It was the job of the 'Protector of the Aboriginals', George Augustus

Robinson, to find the remaining locals and convince them to move into these camps, offering free food and shelter. With only around 100 Tasmanians left, he claimed that this isolation would save them. However, his true agenda was darker – to convert them to Christianity and European ways. Truganini met him in 1829 and, believing his claims, agreed to help Robinson locate the final few.

When the pair travelled into the bush, her quick-thinking skills saved his life a number of times, once when he was nearly speared by a suspicious tribesman, and when he almost drowned in a creek. Truganini learned the customs of other tribes on the island, meeting a variety of people. On their journeys, Robinson recorded their experiences in his journal, which remains one of the best sources historians have about the culture of Tasmanian tribes.

However, the conditions in the settlements were worsening. Forbidden to leave and kept in squalor, many of the inhabitants died from European diseases such as influenza. Truganini was shocked at Robinson's lack of empathy, and instead began

instructing her people to avoid the camps at all costs.

OUTBACK OUTLAWS

Shortly after, Robinson abandoned Truganini on the Australian mainland, and two years later, she went rogue, forming a band with other Aboriginal men and women – including Tunnerminnerwait, a Parperloihener clansman and another of Robinson's pet projects. They travelled around Victoria, fighting with settlers and raiding their houses. The group landed themselves in trouble when they conflicted with two European whalers, killing them both. Allegedly, it was Truganini who finished one of them off with a club.

The five bandits were captured and trialled in Melbourne in 1841. According to some sources, Robinson made a comeback, pleading the jury to have mercy on the women of the group, as they were "utterly subordinate" to the men. So, only

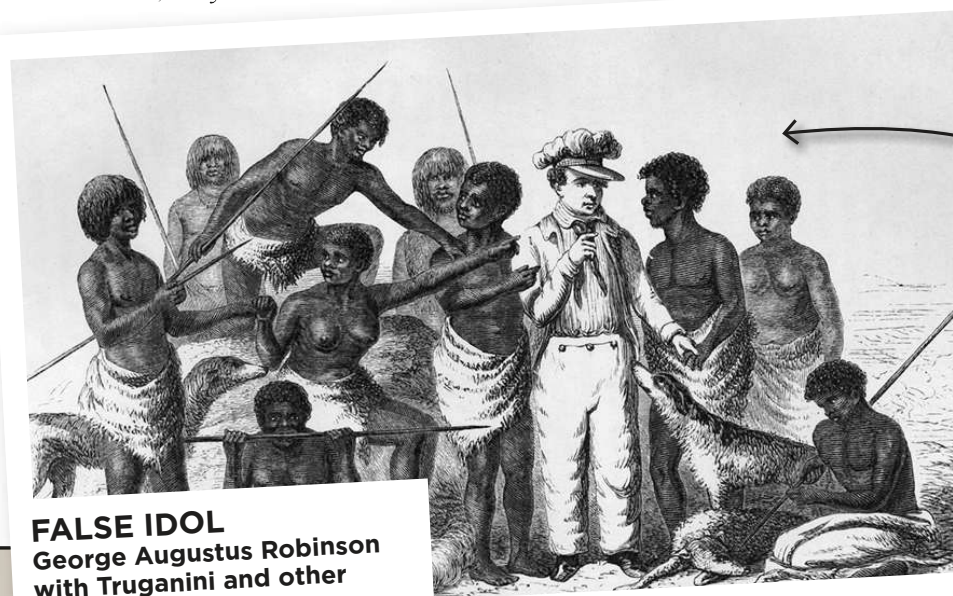
Tunnerminnerwait and another male were hanged in the city's first public execution.

Truganini was sent back to Tasmania, to a camp at Flinders Island. Robinson visited in the 1850s, but she refused to acknowledge him, scarred by his betrayal. Then, she was removed to Oyster Cove, a settlement close to where she was born. By the time she returned to her homeland, there were only 14 full-blooded Palawa-speaking people left. Over the years, disease had decimated them.

AN END TO THE SUFFERING

Somehow, Oyster Cove was even worse than the previous camps, but it was to be Truganini's home for the rest of her days. Despite the negligence suffered by the last few people living there, the area held much significance for her. Permitted occasionally to go hunting in the familiar bush, or to dive for shellfish as she had done as a girl, the aging woman

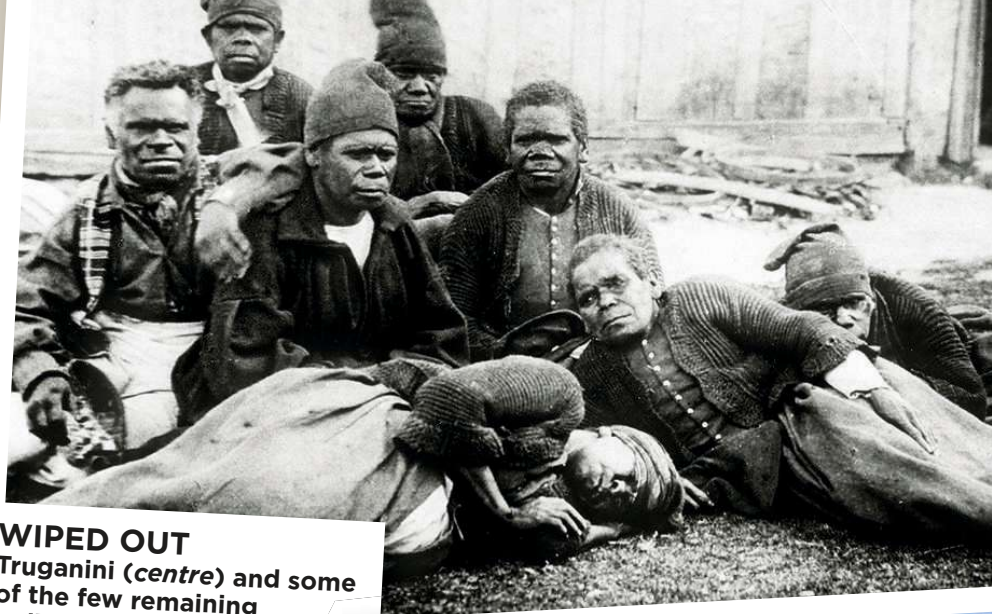
"Forbidden to leave and kept in squalor, many of the inhabitants died from European diseases such as influenza"



FALSE IDOL
George Augustus Robinson
with Truganini and other
Palawa people

THE SOLE SURVIVOR?

Truganini is often claimed to be the **last full-blooded Aboriginal Tasmanian**, but she was actually survived by a woman named Fanny Cochrane Smith by 29 years.



WIPE OUT
Truganini (centre) and some of the few remaining Indigenous Tasmanians



PEACE AT LAST
MAIN: A portrait of Truganini, circa 1866
RIGHT: A monument to this incredible woman stands on Bruny Island, where she was born

managed to find some comfort in the land of her ancestors.

As Truganini grew older still, she watched the rest of those on the camp die off, until she was the last one left. Having seen the bodies of her compatriots being dissected and experimented in (despite the fact it was deeply offensive to her culture) she feared the same would happen to her – “I know the Museum wants my body,” she said before she died in 1876. She was right. Two years after her burial in the grounds of an old women’s prison, the Royal Society of Tasmania dug up her skeleton and placed it on display. It seemed that even in death, she would not know peace.

Approaching the 100-year anniversary of her passing, in 1976 Aboriginal campaigners finally obtained her remains, and scattered her ashes in the waters of Tasmania. Truganini is remembered as one of the most famous Aboriginal Australians who ever lived, someone who fought tirelessly to preserve the legacy of her people. 🎯

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Should more be done to remember the victims of colonial violence?

email: editor@historyrevealed.com

WHITE SAVIOUR

In Britain, Robinson was seen as a **Victorian philanthropist**, helping people who seemingly could not help themselves. He was paid a sum of £8,000 for his work on the settlement camps.

ADA LOVELACE: THE FIRST COMPUTER PROGRAMMER

Byron's daughter, Babbage's protégée and Turing's inspiration was a visionary whose brilliant mind identified the potential of computers a century before the digital age

In an age where women of a certain class were encouraged to become familiar with the arts, literature and perhaps a language or two, Ada Lovelace, who was born in London on 10 December 1815, had a remarkable start in life. Her mother, Lady Anne Isabella Milbanke, had studied science, philosophy and, most unusually for a woman, mathematics – and she wanted the same for her daughter. She was also determined that Ada would not follow in her father's footsteps – he was the notoriously debauched poet Lord Byron.

Ada Lovelace was Byron's only legitimate child. His marriage to Ada's mother was brief and unhappy. Within weeks of Ada's birth, Anne, sick of Byron's drinking, gambling and incestuous affair with his half-sister, left him. A few months later, Byron quit England, and Ada never saw her father again. He died in Greece in 1824 when Ada was eight years old.

From an early age, Ada loved machines and spent hours poring over diagrams of new inventions and dreaming up her own. Ada's preoccupation was encouraged by Lady Byron who, as an aristocrat,

had the means to arrange a series of teachers to provide a first-class education with an emphasis on science and mathematics.

PURE LOGIC

Lady Byron's motivation wasn't entirely focused on expanding Ada's mind – she feared that Ada may have inherited her father's poetic madness and rationalised that, by bringing his daughter up in a world of pure logic and reason, it would instill some mental discipline. Although she didn't stop Ada reading her father's poetry, Lady Byron was relieved that her daughter had no real interest in it.

One of Ada's illustrious tutors was Mary Somerville, the Scottish astronomer and mathematician who was one of the first women to be admitted to the Royal Astronomical Society. It was Somerville who introduced Ada to Charles Babbage, professor of mathematics at Cambridge. Ada was 17 and Babbage was 42. It was a friendship that would change Ada's life. Babbage had earlier invented the 'Difference Engine' – an enormous calculating machine designed

to automatically produce error-free mathematical tables, which later led him to be dubbed the 'father of the computer'.

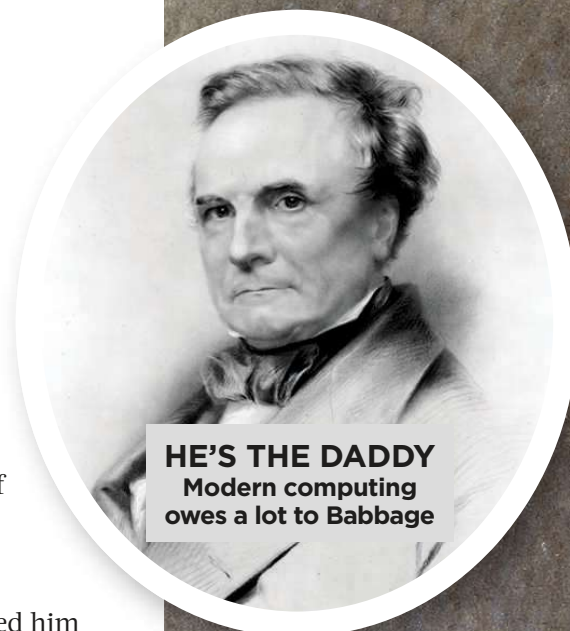
CAPTIVATED

When Lady Byron invited him over to show a model of his creation to her friends, Ada was captivated and he was bowled over by her precocious intellect. In her, he'd found a passionate supporter and confidante – in him, she'd found a mentor.

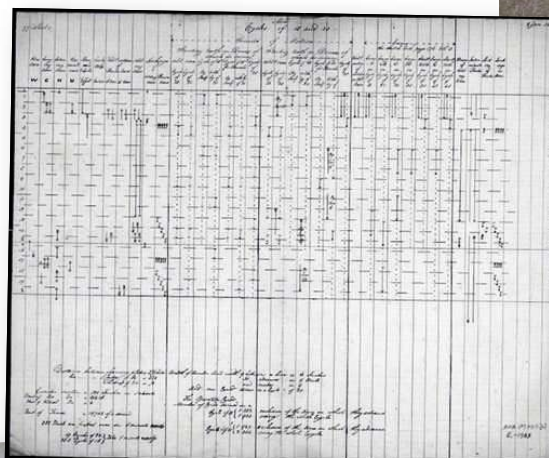
As he went on to develop his next project, a theoretical computer he called the 'Analytical Engine', they corresponded regularly. As well as a shared passion for numbers, their

BIG DATA

Babbage believed that his machine was confined to numerical calculations. Ada Lovelace, however, was a Victorian woman with a vision. **She predicted that computers could do more** than just crunch numbers.



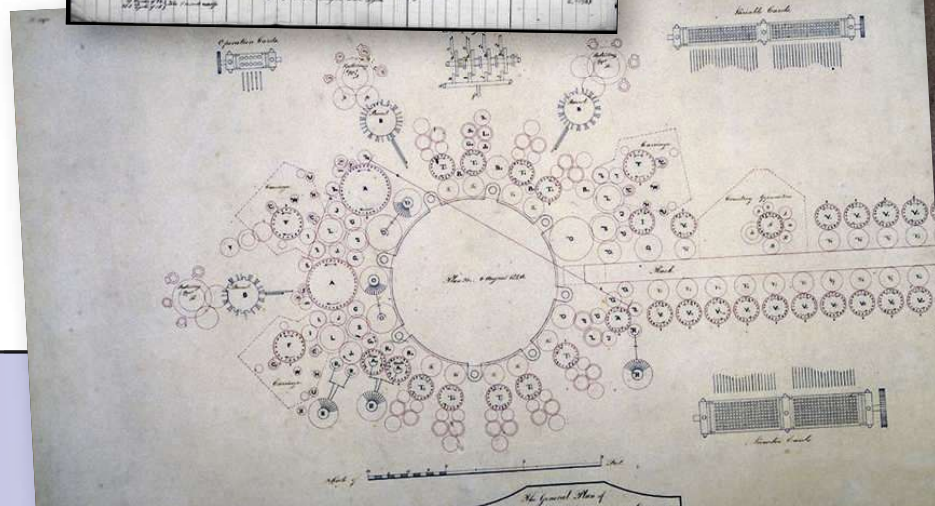
HE'S THE DADDY
Modern computing owes a lot to Babbage

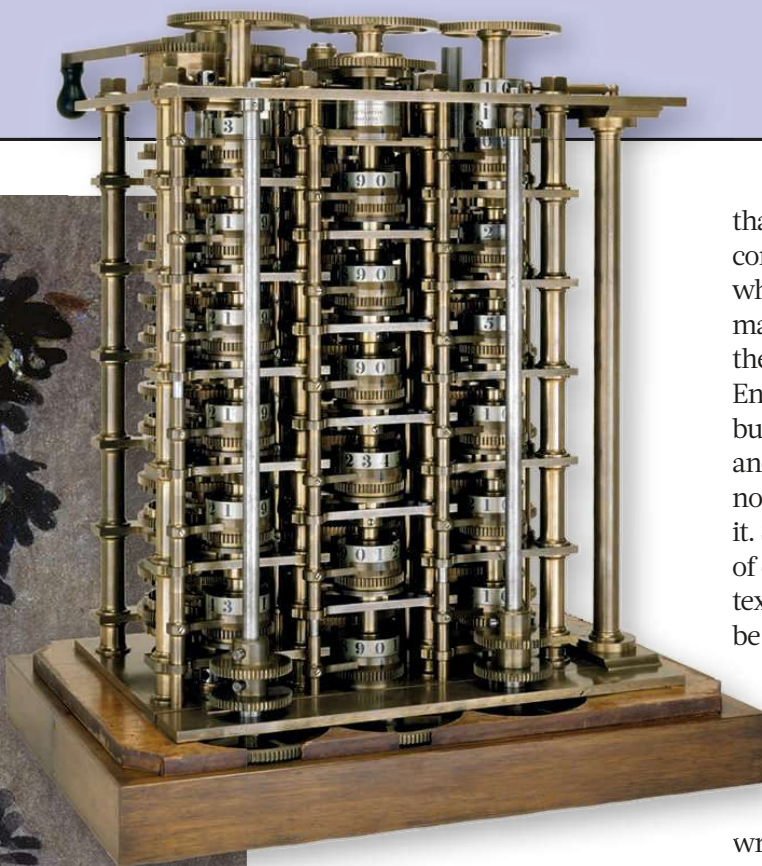
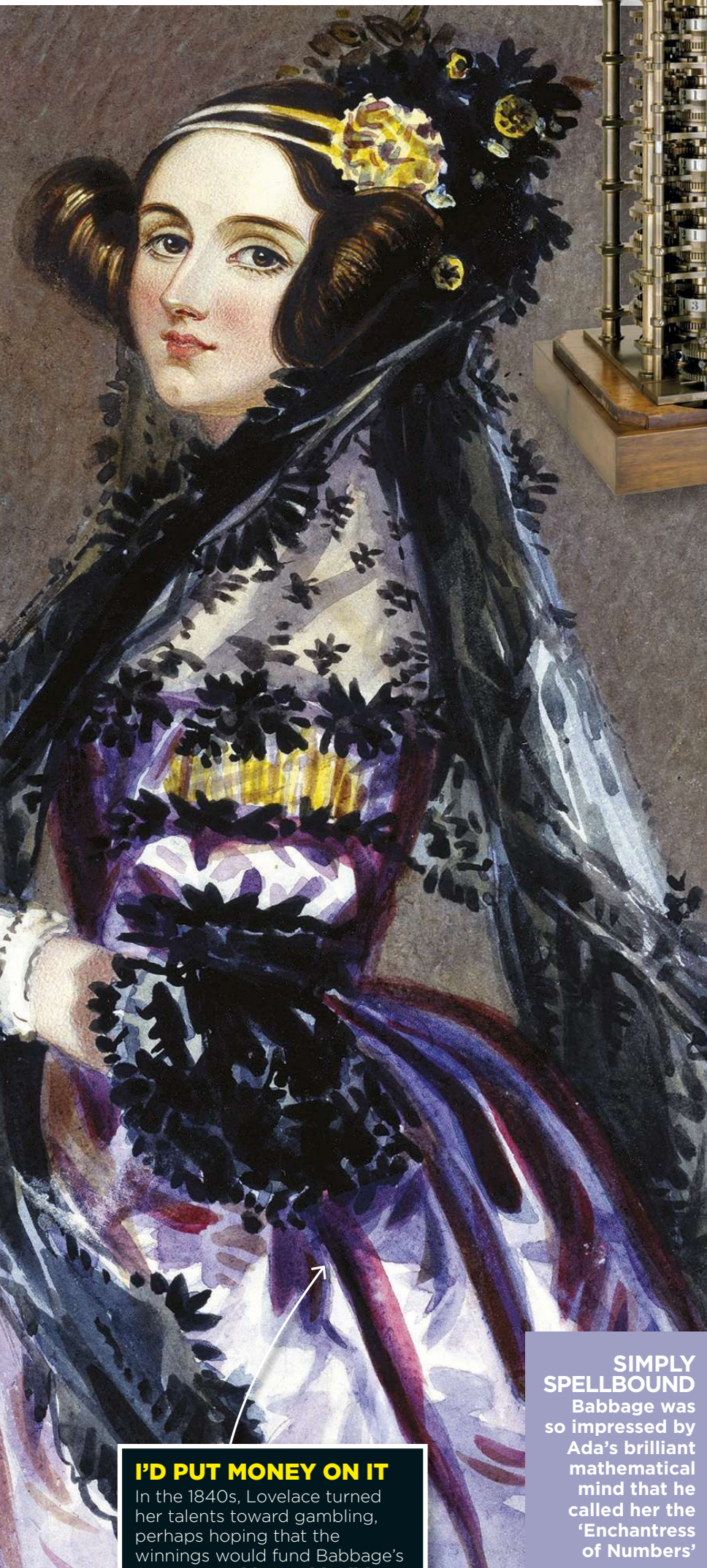


ONE STEP BEYOND

Ada's notes on Babbage's designs proved that not only did she understand the plans, she also realised its full potential

“Lovelace mused that any piece of content, from text to sounds, could be translated to digital form”





TESTING THE THEORY When Babbage's 'Difference Engine' was built by the Science Museum in 2002, it worked

affectionate, lifelong relationship was also due to the fact that Babbage had previously lost a much beloved daughter, while Ada had longed for a father figure since childhood.

LOST IN TRANSLATION

After becoming Babbage's protégée, Ada (now the Countess of Lovelace) was tasked with translating an article about the Analytical Engine, written by Italian engineer Luigi Menabrea. She used this as an opportunity to do much more than just translate. She added insightful notes, such as outlining how to use the Engine to calculate a sequence of Bernoulli numbers (named after Swiss maths whizz Jakob Bernoulli, 1655-1705, who had worked out that a sequence of rational numbers could create a formula to solve problems). This is considered to be the first machine-generated algorithm, and therefore, the first computer program.

The finished piece, *Notes by the Translator... Sketch of the Analytical Engine* was three times as long as the original paper. It was published in 1843, and demonstrated that while Lovelace understood the plans for the device as well as Babbage, she realised its potential much better than he did. Babbage believed

that the use of his machine was confined to numerical calculations, while Ada realised that it could also manipulate symbols. This would theoretically enable the Analytical Engine (a full version was never built) to take on complex tasks and produce an answer that had not been pre-programmed into it. She also mused that any piece of content – including music, text, pictures and sounds – could be translated to digital form and manipulated. It was as if her analytical mind was given wings by a creative instinct – she was indeed her father's daughter. She wrote: "The Analytical Engine weaves algebraical patterns just as the Jacquard loom weaves flowers and leaves."

This was heady stuff. Her ideas were so far ahead of their time that it would take another 100 years and Alan Turing to recognise the significance of her work. During World War II, as he was working at Bletchley Park on decoding German communications, Turing discovered Ada's translation. For him, these were critical documents that helped to shape his thinking and crack the Enigma Code.

As the field of computer science dawned in the 1950s, Lovelace gained a new following after her notes were republished in BV Bowden's 1953 book *Faster Than Thought: A Symposium on Digital Computing Machines*. In 1979, a computer programming language, developed by the US Department of Defense, was named 'Ada' in her honour.

Lovelace had a short life. She suffered from uterine cancer and passed away on 27 November 1852. At her request, she was buried in the Byron family vault inside the Church of St Mary Magdalene, Hucknall. Her coffin was placed side-by-side with that of the father she never knew. She was just 36 – the same age as Lord Byron when he died. 📍

SIMPLY SPELLBOUND

Babbage was so impressed by Ada's brilliant mathematical mind that he called her the 'Enchantress of Numbers'

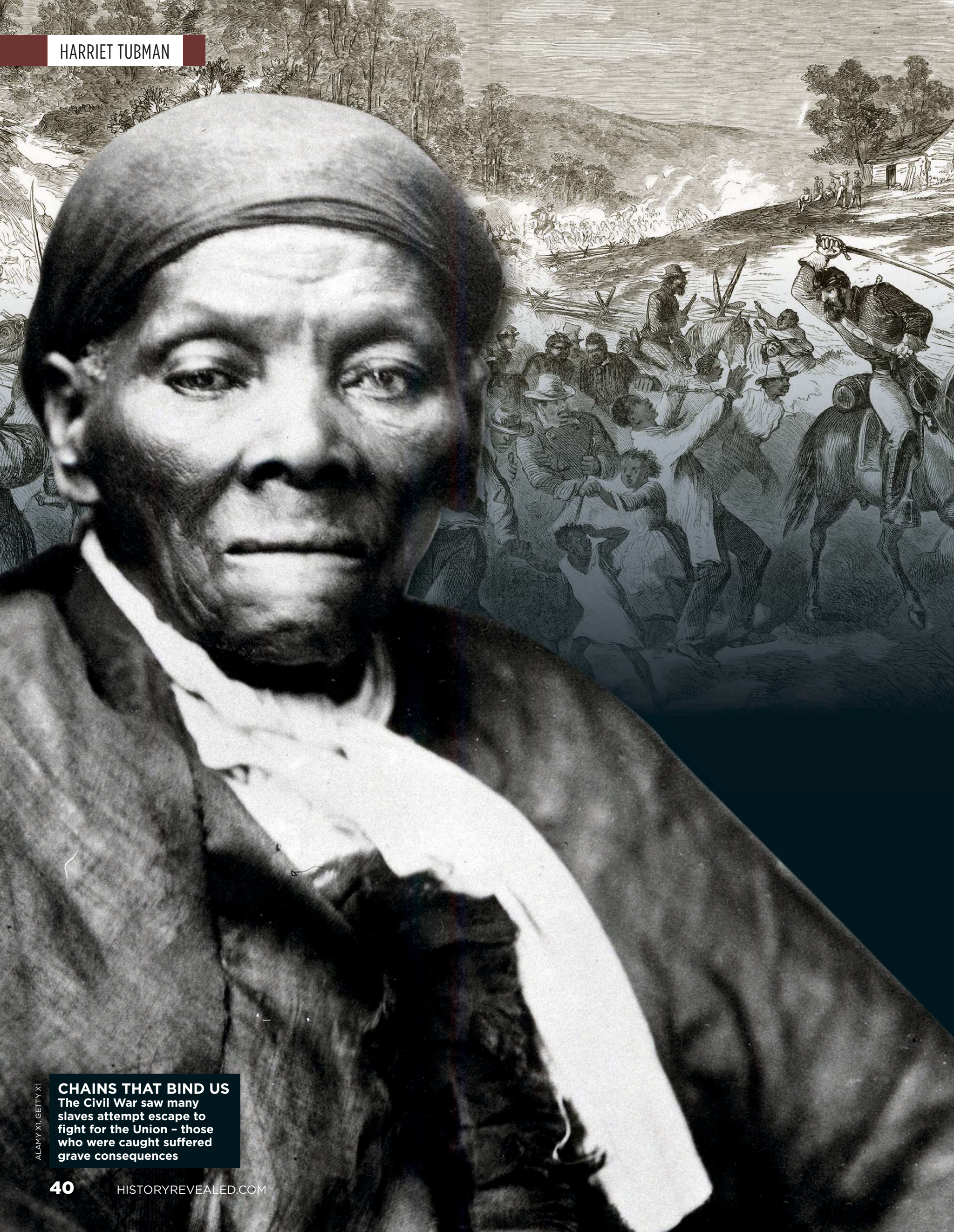
I'D PUT MONEY ON IT

In the 1840s, Lovelace turned her talents toward gambling, perhaps hoping that the winnings would fund Babbage's inventions. **This gamble didn't pay off**, and Ada was once forced to secretly pawn the Lovelace family's diamonds.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Just how important was Ada to the field of computing?

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CHAINS THAT BIND US

The Civil War saw many slaves attempt escape to fight for the Union – those who were caught suffered grave consequences

ALAMY XI, GETTY XI

HARRIET TUBMAN MOSES OF HER PEOPLE

The Underground Railroad saved thousands from the hell of slavery, but one name will always stand out as the symbol of courage, selflessness and freedom, writes

Jonny Wilkes

She had escaped from hell. The hell of bondage, racism, terror, degradation, back-breaking work, beatings and whippings that marked the life of a slave in the United States. Harriet Tubman ran away from her Maryland plantation and trekked, alone, nearly 90 miles to reach the free state of Pennsylvania. The treacherous journey meant travelling at night through woods and across streams, with little food, and fearing anyone who would happily send her back to her owners to collect a reward.

If not for a clandestine network of routes and safe houses, organised to aid 'fugitive slaves' heading north, Tubman may have never made it to Philadelphia. "When I found I had crossed that line, I looked at my hands to see if I was the same person," she recalled of her 1849 escape. "There was such a glory over everything. The Sun came like gold through the trees and over the fields, and I felt like I was in heaven."

The Underground Railroad delivered Tubman to a place where she could live relatively safe from bondage, yet while others faced brutality and despair, she would risk her life as the network's most famous conductor. Tubman escaped hell, only to turn and walk back into it.

STRENGTH AND COURAGE

Araminta Ross, Tubman's birth name, would have been put to work on her owners'

plantation in Dorchester County, Maryland, almost as soon as she learned to walk. Her eight brothers and sisters faced the same brutal introduction to their lives as slaves. The exhausting field work, and long hours of domestic service as a maid and later a cook, left her malnourished and occasionally ill. Like the millions of slaves in America, the young Minty became all-too familiar with horrific physical and emotional abuse from her masters. While working as a nursemaid at the age of just five or six – thought to have been around 1825-30 – she was whipped and beaten as punishment whenever the baby cried.

Yet from Minty's violent early years came a devout Christian faith, built on being read Bible stories by her mother, as well as a remarkable strength, courage and willingness to put herself in danger to help others. These qualities served her so well on the Underground Railroad, but almost led to her death as a child.

One day, when she had been sent to fetch supplies from a dry goods store, Minty found herself caught between a slave who had left his plantation without permission and his pursuing overseer. Not only did she refuse orders to help restrain the runaway, but she blocked the white man's path, causing him to hurl a heavy weight in frustration. It struck Minty in the

head, knocking her unconscious in a bloody heap. With no medical care forthcoming for a damaged slave, Minty suffered from seizures, sudden sleeping episodes similar to narcolepsy, and began having vivid religious visions. These continued throughout her life (although she claimed them to be premonitions from God). Her head injury elicited no sympathy from her owners, who put her right back to work following a failed attempt to sell her.

Years rolled by with no relief from the terrible conditions, though all the hours of hard labour made Minty surprisingly strong for her diminutive five-foot frame. It was about 1844 when she became Harriet Tubman – having married a free black named John Tubman and choosing to adopt her mother's first name – yet it was a further five years before she took her first steps to freedom.

What makes Tubman's escape from slavery more extraordinary is that she had to do it twice. On 17 September 1849, she headed north with two of her brothers, only to return to the plantation when Harry and Ben had second thoughts. Instead of going on without them, Tubman made sure they got back before making her second attempt. On foot, the 90-mile journey could have taken her anywhere between one and three weeks.

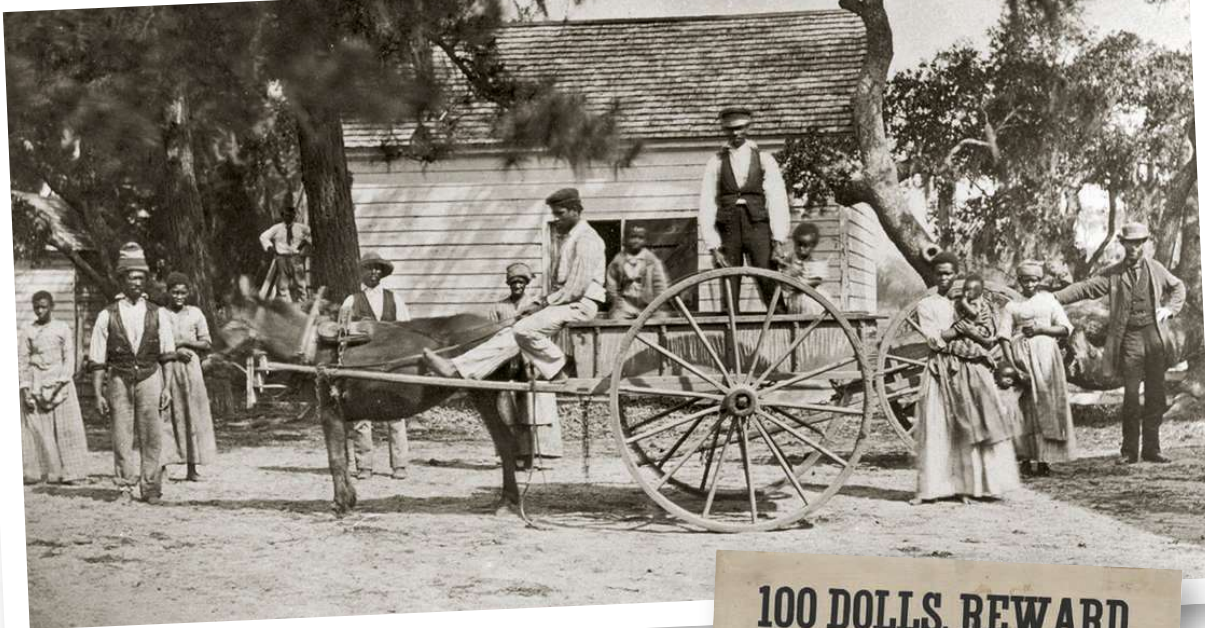
"Tubman escaped hell, only to turn and walk back into it"



BRIDGE TO FREEDOM
THIS IMAGE: Tubman escorting escaped slaves into Canada LEFT: A photograph of Tubman taken between 1871 and 1876, when she was in her 50s

BOUND AND DETERMINED

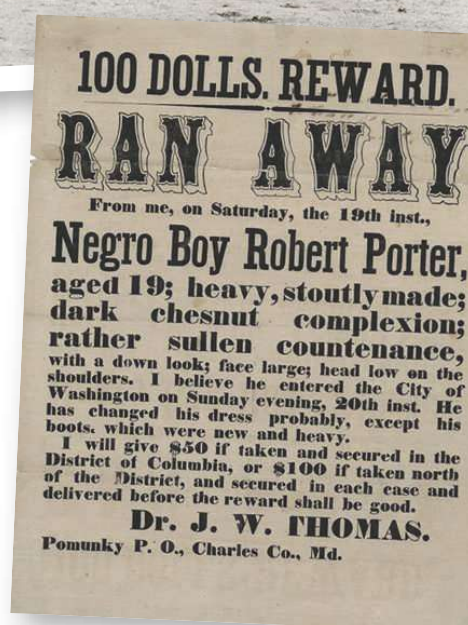
THIS IMAGE: Slaves leaving for work in the fields on a plantation in South Carolina
BELOW: Rewards were offered to anyone who could return a runaway slave



But soon after reaching Philadelphia and proclaiming it to be “heaven”, Tubman came to the realisation that her work had only just begun – she now wanted to rescue her family and friends from the evils of slavery too. So in 1850, she travelled back down to Maryland in order to bring back her niece Kessiah and her husband, and their two daughters.

That was the first of 13 trips Tubman made as a ‘conductor’ of the Underground Railroad over the next decade (some accounts say she went as many as 19 times). Her success with using and expanding the network to get escaped slaves to safety led leading abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison to call her “Moses of her people”. It is thought that she rescued around 300 slaves directly – including some of her brothers, their families and her own parents – and gave instructions to help dozens more. Tubman used to boast that she never lost a single passenger.

Being a conductor meant walking through slavery territory, where she could be snatched by armed slave hunters, meaning Tubman voluntarily risked her life each time. It only became more dangerous with the Fugitive Slave Act, which meant escaped slaves could be captured in the North and returned to their owners. As this led to a rise in black people, slave and free, being abducted, even the free states increasingly became an unsafe final destination for the Underground Railroad. Tubman, therefore, had to find routes to British-owned Canada. Yet her fortitude and belief that God watched over her never wavered. Fellow



conductor William Still once wrote of Tubman: “Great fears were entertained for her safety, but she seemed wholly devoid of personal fear.”

Time and time again, the uneducated, illiterate Tubman proved her ingenuity to keep slaves in her care safe and fed on the long journey. She would often travel in winter, when the nights were longer, and set off with her ‘passengers’ on a Saturday evening – as runaway notices wouldn’t appear in newspapers until Monday morning. While on route, Tubman carried a pistol, both for defence and to keep the slaves going. “You’ll be free or die,” became her resolute message.

Tubman became the Underground Railroad’s most famous conductor, known to abolitionists and activists, such as John Brown. Before his doomed 1859 raid on Harpers Ferry in the hopes of sparking a slave revolt, he consulted who he

RAILROAD RHYTHM CODED SONGS: MYTH OR REALITY?

There is a popular story about the Underground Railroad stating that songs had secret messages in the lyrics, which helped slaves find their way to freedom or act as a warning. So ‘Follow the Drinkin’ Gourd’ actually refers to the North Star, ‘Wade in the Water’ is an instruction to hide, and the words ‘I am bound for the land of Canaan’ could be used by a slave to announce his or her intention to escape and head to Canada, their Canaan.

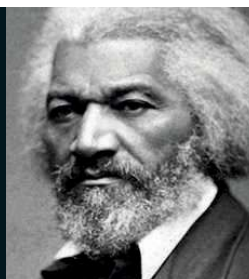
In her biography of Harriet Tubman, Sarah Hopkins Bradford names two songs that she used on the Railroad: ‘Go Down Moses’ and ‘Bound for the Promised Land’. Tubman would later change the tempo to alter the meaning of the message.

There are historians, however, who question the idea that songs contained codes, saying that there is no clear evidence from the time and that the story originates not in the 19th century, but the 20th. A similar theory, which claims that quilts were made with certain patterns to represent hidden instructions, has also been questioned.

The truth remains unclear, and isn’t helped by the fact that detailed records are sparse when it comes to the lives of slaves in America. Yet songs certainly formed a strong tradition for those in bondage, whether used as prayers (known as ‘spirituals’), to offer a beat to their work or as oral history in a society where many were illiterate. They offered hope where there seemed to be none and a sense of community when everyone sang together.

dubbed ‘General Tubman’, and allegedly wanted her to be part of the attack. Such was Tubman’s reputation that she bought a small piece of land near Auburn, New York – where she lived with her elderly parents, who she rescued in one of her final trips – from anti-slavery senator (and future Secretary of State under Abraham Lincoln) William H Seward.

**FREDERICK DOUGLASS, ABOLITIONIST
AND FRIEND OF TUBMAN’S**
“I know of no one who has willingly
encountered more perils and hardships to
serve our enslaved people”



HEROISM AND POVERTY

Although the Underground Railroad essentially ended when the American Civil War broke out in 1861, it did not signal the last of Tubman’s heroic deeds. Never thinking of her own well-being, she served in the Union Army as a cook, laundress and nurse, tending to wounded

ON TRACK

WHAT WAS THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD?

The name doesn't mean actual trains ran up and down America in tunnels (not in the early 19th century, at least) but refers to a system of hidden routes, there to help escaped slaves reach the free states of the North or Canada. Guides led them along the indirect routes, which often meant walking through the wilderness, crossing rivers and climbing mountains to avoid detection. Sometimes, though, a route included transportation, such as boats or wagons. Safe houses would be dotted along the routes, managed by sympathisers.

It was all kept a secret, hence 'underground', and used terms from the burgeoning railway. So the slaves became 'passengers', safe houses became 'stations', and the guides, like Harriet Tubman, were called 'conductors'.

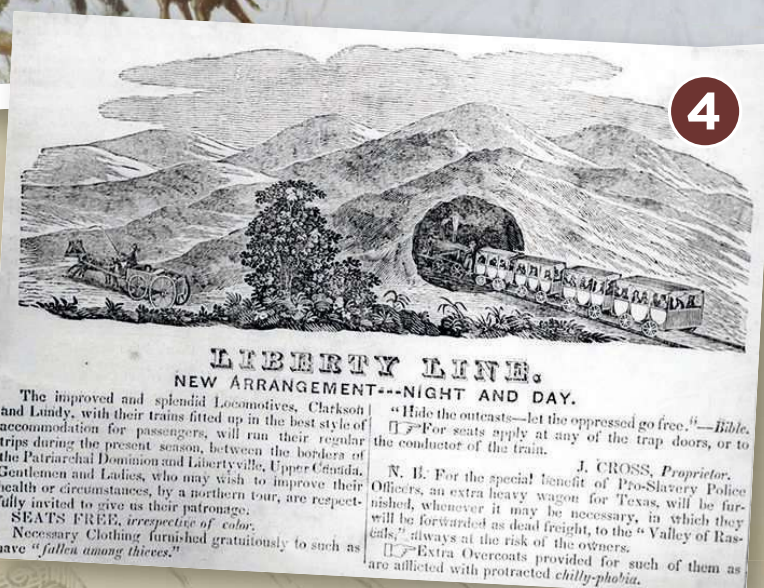
Although often represented as meticulously organised, with maps of set routes and elaborate systems of communication, the Underground Railroad was a loosely connected network. Those involved – who ranged from escaped slaves to wealthy white abolitionists and church leaders – tended to stay in small groups. This meant that they mastered certain routes and stations without ever knowing the Railroad's full extent.

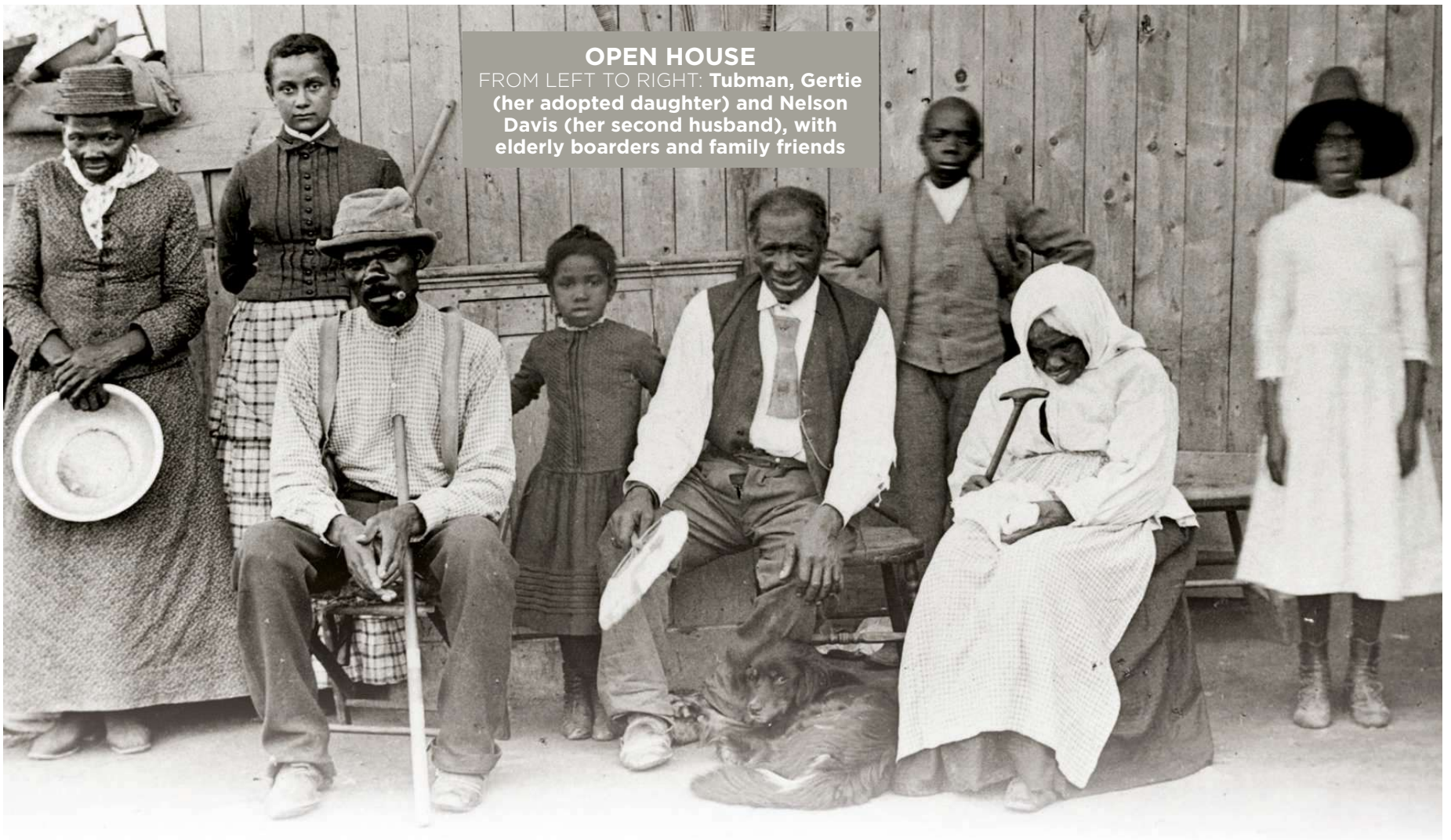
In the larger cities of the North, like New York, Boston and Philadelphia, 'vigilance committees' sprang up and supported the Railroad. They provided food, supplies, money and job recommendations to the arriving slaves, and even held fundraising bake sales under the banner, 'Buy for the

sake of the slave'. There is no way of knowing exactly how many were saved, with estimates ranging from 40,000 to 100,000, but the Railroad gave hope to millions of slaves who dreamed of one day reaching the 'promised land'.

ALL ABOARD

- 1: Map showing routes (in red) taken by fugitive slaves into Canada and the free states
- 2: A rattle used to warn of danger
- 3: Levi Coffin, a Quaker dubbed 'President of the Underground Railroad'
- 4: An 1844 advertisement for the 'Liberty Line' – a thinly veiled reference to the Railroad
- 5: Runaways defend themselves from slave catchers





OPEN HOUSE
FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Tubman, Gertie (her adopted daughter) and Nelson Davis (her second husband), with elderly boarders and family friends

“The recent decision to put Tubman on the \$20 bill sees her join presidents and Founding Fathers”

◀ soldiers and fugitive slaves, who were referred to as ‘contrabands’.

After Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation – laying the foundations for the abolition of slavery – Tubman led a band of scouts into Confederate territory, utilising the skills she had mastered as a conductor. The information that she gathered allowed Colonel James Montgomery to attack enemy positions with devastating effect, and saw her become the first woman to lead an armed assault. On 2 June 1863, Tubman guided Union steamboats along the Combahee River to raid plantations in South Carolina. More than 750 slaves were freed.

But what did Tubman receive for three years of loyal service? Such little pay that she had to support herself by selling homemade

pies, ginger bread and root beer, and no compensation at all for three decades. Tubman spent years struggling in poverty, made only worse in 1873 when two men scammed her out of \$2,000, but that did not mean that she faded into obscurity. Still a popular symbol of the anti-slavery movement, she was the subject of two biographies (published in 1869 and 1886), with all of the proceeds going to help pay her bills.

Regardless of money troubles, Tubman continued to fight for others for the rest of her life. She gave speeches supporting women’s suffrage, and was invited to be the keynote speaker at the first meeting of the National Association of Colored Women in 1896. Her Auburn home became a haven for orphans, the elderly and freed slaves looking for help, which

is how she met her second husband, a Civil War veteran named Nelson Davis. (Back in her conductor days, she had gone back to rescue John Tubman, but he had re-married.) Together, Tubman and Davis adopted a baby girl, Gertie.

Tubman’s generosity led to the opening of the Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged on her land in 1908, just a few years before she became one of its patients. On 10 March 1913, she died of pneumonia, surrounded by family and friends. A devout Christian until the end, her final words were, “I go to prepare a place for you”.

If her actions and achievements aren’t testament enough, these last words perfectly capture a woman who dedicated her life to others, seeking no glory or fame in return. A woman who became an American icon by hiding in shadows. A woman who escaped the hell of being a slave and set about helping others to do the same.

Her friend, the revered abolitionist Frederick Douglass, once wrote to Tubman about her time as a conductor on the Underground Railroad: “Most that I have done and suffered in the service of our cause has been in public, and I have received much encouragement at every step of the way. You, on the other hand, have labored in a private way. I have wrought in the day – you in the night.” With the recent decision to put Tubman on the new \$20 bill, seeing her join presidents and Founding Fathers, it is only right for her labours to be forevermore public, in the day. 🎯

BARACK OBAMA, FIRST BLACK PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

“Harriet Tubman is an American hero. She was... forever motivated by her love of... community and by her... abiding faith”



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Just how much do we owe to Harriet Tubman?

Email: editor@historyrevealed.com

NELLIE BLY AROUND THE WORLD IN 72 DAYS—

Pat Kinsella meets Nellie Bly, the journalist who went around the world in less than 80 days, racing against the fictitious Phileas Fogg and a very real rival travelling in the opposite direction...

TRAIL BLAZER

A 26-year-old Bly poses for the camera in 1890 – the year she finished her trip



“Never having failed,
**I could not picture
what failure meant...**”

Nellie Bly



FULL STEAM AHEAD

Among the 1,710 passengers aboard the *Oceanic* when it arrived in San Francisco in January 1890 was Nellie Bly, near the end of her round-the-world adventure

With his 1873 classic *Around the World in Eighty Days*, master raconteur Jules Verne skilfully captured the excitement of an era in which people could feel the planet shrinking beneath their feet.

In 1869, the First Transcontinental Railroad began sending trains across America, and the Suez Canal opened, connecting the Mediterranean to the Red Sea and Indian Ocean. A year later, Indian railways linked up across the sub-continent – creating a news story that acted as the imaginary catalyst for Verne's plot. It was this that led his protagonist, Phileas Fogg, to set a wager that he could circle the globe from London's Reform Club, door-to-door, in 80 days.

No one tested the plausibility of this feat for 17 years until, in 1889, two people took up the challenge at once. Shockingly for the age, both were women. Neither would have been allowed through the doors of Fogg's gentlemen's club, but both proved more than a match for any pretend Victorian globe-trotting toff, and one in particular specialised in jumping gender hurdles.

LEARNING TO BLY

Nellie Bly was born Elizabeth Jane Cochran in 1864, in a small Pennsylvanian town named after her father, Judge Michael Cochran. She was his 13th child, and her early life experiences ignited a fierce fire in her belly. Known as 'Pink' as a youngster, because she was so often dressed in the colour, Cochran would become a trailblazer, carving a career at the cutting edge of journalism under a new name: Nellie Bly.

After the death of her father when she was six, the family fell on hard times. Her mother remarried, but the relationship turned abusive and ended in divorce. Cochran had to leave school and abandon her ambitions of being a teacher. In 1880, the family moved to Pittsburgh, where they took in boarders to make ends meet.

In 1885, Cochran read an article in *The Pittsburgh Dispatch* that would change her life. The viciously misogynistic piece, 'What Girls Are Good For', criticised women for attempting to gain an education, forge a career or stray too far from home. The writer even expressed supposedly tongue-in-cheek support for the practice of girl-child infanticide. Under the pseudonym 'Lonely Orphan Girl', Cochran sent a response that so impressed the editor, George Madden, with its combination of incandescent rage and dignified prose that he published both the letter and an invite for the writer to come in to the office. Madden suggested she write a full riposte to the offending article, and the resulting feature, 'The Girl Puzzle' led to a full-time job.

Madden suggested the nom de plume, Nelly Bly (from a popular song), which became Nellie. Shunning assignments that focussed on fashion, gardening and theatre – traditional fodder for female writers – she instead tackled prickly social issues. Criticism and threats from

THE MAIN PLAYERS



ELIZABETH COCHRAN SEAMAN

Better known by her nom de plume, Nellie Bly. A pioneering investigative journalist who championed women's and children's rights, among other causes.



ELIZABETH BISLAND

The *Cosmopolitan* dispatched this female reporter in the opposite direction to Bly to try and trump her time. By reputation, Bisland was a serious writer.



JOSEPH PULITZER

The Hungarian-born newspaper publisher famous for setting up the Pulitzer Prizes for journalistic excellence. As owner of the *New York World* (among others), he assisted Bly across the US.

JULES VERNE

French author of *Around the World in Eighty Days*. Told Bly that he'd written his book after seeing a newspaper advert for a Thomas Cook holiday taking people around the globe.

JOHN A COCKERILL

Managing Editor of the *New York World*, who reluctantly accepted Bly's proposal that she should attempt to go around the world quicker than Verne's fictitious Fogg.

BON VOYAGE

BELOW: After her return, Bly is photographed in her travel garb – complete with her super-compact bag
RIGHT: An early edition of the book that inspired Bly's adventure, Jules Verne's *Around the World in Eighty Days*
FAR RIGHT: 'Round the World with Nellie Bly' – a board game of Bly's trip, with squares for each day of her journey



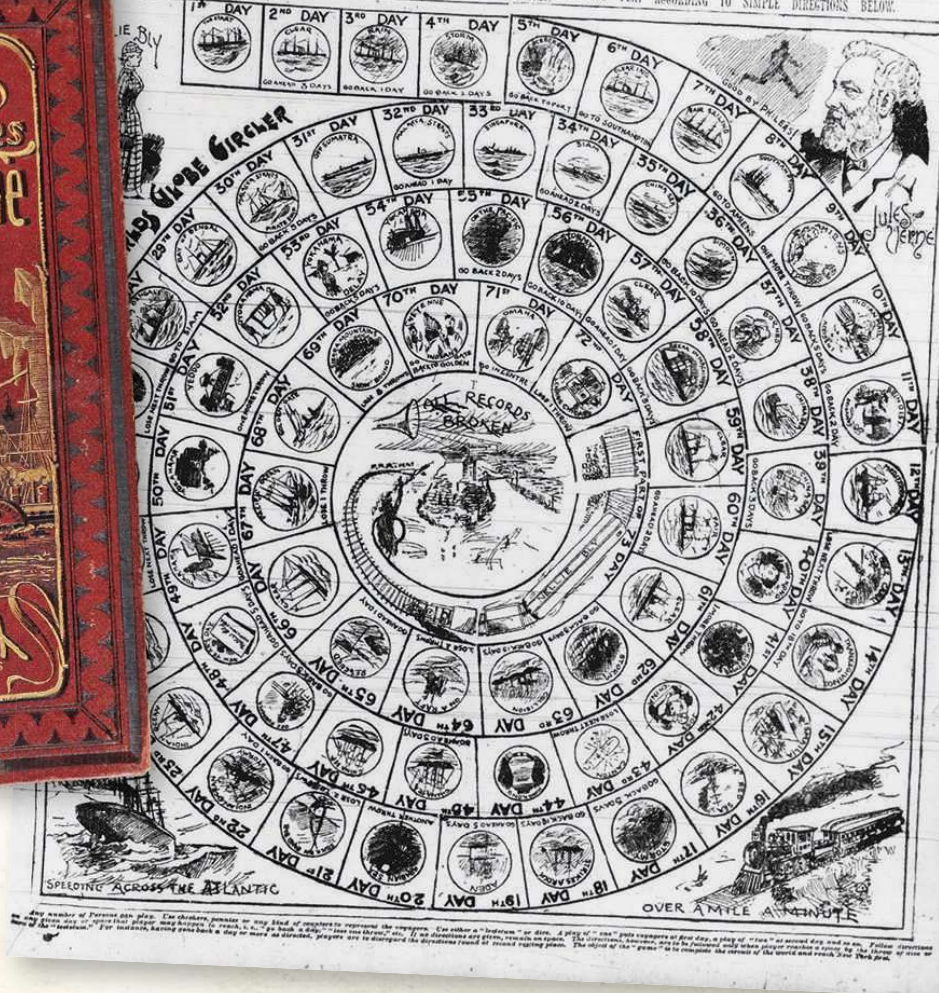


THE WORLD.

PAGES 21 TO 28.

ROUND THE WORLD WITH NELLIE BLY.

CUT OUT THIS GAME, PLACE IT ON A TABLE OR PASTE IT ON CARDBOARD AND PLAY ACCORDING TO SIMPLE DIRECTIONS BELOW.



A TASTE OF THE ORIENT
A colourised snap of Yokohama, Japan c1895, where Bly briefly stopped near the end of her voyage

24,899

The distance, in miles, that Bly travelled during her 72-day odyssey around the world in 1889-90

advertisers saw Bly reassigned, which prompted her indignant resignation. She then travelled to Mexico, working as a freelance foreign correspondent, until her writing – which was sharply critical of President Porfirio Díaz's dictatorship – came to attention of the government and she was forced to leave.

Back in the US, Bly scored her first major scoop after accepting an undercover assignment for Joseph Pulitzer's *New York World* and deliberately getting committed to New York's infamous Blackwell's Island women's asylum. She spent ten days collecting content about the abuse and inhuman treatment that was meted out before being rescued by the *World*. Her subsequent article 'Ten Days in a Madhouse' directly led to wave of reforms and an injection of cash into the treatment of the mentally ill.

By 1887, Bly had established herself as a pioneer in the dangerous field of immersive investigative journalism, which remained her lifelong speciality. She continued to rail against various injustices, including dire working conditions for factory women and the fate of unwanted infants. In 1889, after reading *Around the World in Eighty Days*, she pitched an idea to her editor that would crystallise her reputation as a trailblazer for her sex. If she could pull it off...

FICTION INTO FACT

"It is impossible for you to do it," the *World's* Managing Editor, John A Cockerill, barked at Bly when she proposed her round-the-world speed attempt. "You are a woman and would need a protector, and even if it were possible for you to travel alone you would need to carry so much baggage that it would detain you in making rapid changes... No one but a man can do this."

Bly's response was characteristically blunt. "Very well," she said. "Start the man and I'll start the same day for some other newspaper and beat him." Cockerill relented.

Bly began her journey within the year, leaving New Jersey on a steamship bound for England. She took a single piece of baggage, measuring 41 by 18 cms, containing bare essentials – underwear, toiletries, writing materials, dressing gown, tennis blazer, flask and cup, two caps, three veils, slippers, needle and thread, handkerchiefs. But no gun. "I had such a strong >

CHARING CROSS

Bly spent a few hours in London on 22 November 1899, before heading to Charing Cross Station by horse-drawn cab to catch a train south

belief in the world's greeting me as I greeted it that I refused to arm myself," she wrote.

The rough crossing was a rude awakening for the 25-year-old first-time traveller. Horribly ill, Bly stayed in her cabin so long the Captain checked she was still alive. Eventually, she found her sea legs, and six days later arrived in Southampton, where Tracy Greaves, the *World's* London correspondent, had exciting news.

Jules Verne himself had heard of Bly's quest and wanted to meet her in his hometown of Amiens, France. This was both an honour and a gamble, necessitating a deviation from her meticulously planned route. Bly travelled non-stop for two days to make the appointment, by road, rail and boat via London to Boulogne, and then Amiens, where Verne and his wife were waiting at the station.

Leaving Verne's home in the middle of the night, Bly caught a 1.30am train across France and Italy to the port of Brindisi. Here she boarded the *Victoria*, a steamer that took her through the Mediterranean to Port Said in Egypt, at the new Suez Canal's northern end.

£200

The amount of money Bly had when she departed, plus a little gold and a few US dollars

Here, she was critical of fellow passengers swatting away beggars with their walking canes.

Once her boat had refuelled, it continued through the canal into the Red Sea, stopping at the Port of Aden on the Arabian Peninsula, where Bly went exploring. Next stop was Colombo in Sri Lanka, from where she fired off a report via telegraph to the *World*.

In between access to telegraph stations, Bly mailed updates to the paper. As the roving reporter's dispatches often took a long time to arrive in New York, the *World* used inventive ways to keep interest in the story alive, such as running a sweepstake asking readers to guess exactly how long Bly's trip would take. The grand prize was an expenses-paid trip to Europe, and over half a million people had a punt.

After an agonising five-day wait in Colombo for a boat that would take her the 3,500 miles by sea to Hong Kong, Bly finally set sail for China on the *Oriental*. En route, the ship stopped at Singapore, where the lonely traveller bought herself a companion: a fez-wearing miniature monkey she called McGinty.

Another overnight delay in Singapore had Bly fretting about her connection in Hong Kong, but the ship made good progress when it finally set sail – albeit through a violent monsoon storm that created enormous seas. They arrived safely – and early, just before Christmas Day – however Bly had an unwelcome surprise awaiting her.

A REAL RACE

Having caught whiff of the *World's* round-the-world escapade, a rival publication – the *Cosmopolitan* – hastily commissioned another female journalist to try and beat Bly's time.

With just six hours notice, Elizabeth Bisland (aged 28) left New York on the same day as Bly, but she travelled west while the *World's* champion went east. The competition intensified public interest in what was now a real race, but Bly remained unaware of the live contest she was in until arriving in Hong Kong, where she was told that Bisland had passed through several days earlier. She was not impressed by the news, and a visit to a leper colony and the Temple of the Dead did little to lighten her mood.

"I am not racing," Bly claimed. "I promised to do the trip in 75 days, and I will do it." However,

RECORD ROUTE

Bly mapped out her route carefully, but only bought a ticket for the first leg, so her schedule could be adjusted at any time. Bly and Bisland's great adventures took place before the dawn of flight, but in an era buzzing with copious steam-driven transport options. Completely reliant on ships and railways, however, both women could do little to avoid the occasional setbacks that threatened their progress, and both faced delays in Asia.

1 14 NOVEMBER 1889, 30 SECONDS AFTER 9.40PM

New Jersey, US

Bly's meticulously recorded journey begins as the *Augusta Victoria*, a steamer of the Hamburg America Line, pulls away from Hoboken dock, bound for the UK.

2 22 NOVEMBER
London, UK

Bly remarks on the fine buildings, hurrying people and beautifully paved streets of the capital city as she rushes to Charing Cross Station to catch a train for the south coast, and a ferry to the continent.

3 23 NOVEMBER
Amiens, France

After landing in Calais, Bly takes a train to Amiens on a risky diversion to meet Jules Verne and spends an evening at the inspirational author's house.

4 25 NOVEMBER
Brindisi, Italy

After taking a non-stop (except to take on coal and water) train from Calais to Brindisi, Bly catches the steamship *Victoria* and sets sail across the Mediterranean Sea to Port Said in Egypt.

5 28 NOVEMBER
Ismailia, Egypt

Bly passes through the Suez Canal, which has only been open for 20 years, to arrive at Aden on 3 December.

6 8 DECEMBER
Colombo, Sri Lanka

Still on schedule, Bly arrives in Sri Lanka (then Ceylon), where she is held up for five days waiting for another boat to arrive before hers can leave.

7 18 DECEMBER
Singapore

Evidently feeling the loneliness of the long distance solo traveller, Bly buys a miniature monkey and calls it McGinty.

8 CHRISTMAS 1889
Hong Kong, then UK

Back on track after several delays, Bly's good humour is short-lived when she discovers that she has a rival round-the-worlder: Elizabeth Bisland from *Cosmopolitan*.

9 7 JANUARY 1890
Yokohama, Japan

Having seen in the New Year aboard a ship travelling between Hong Kong and Japan,



and spending some days in Yokohama, Bly departs for the final sea leg of her journey.

10 21 JANUARY 1890
San Francisco

Bly arrives back in the US aboard the White Star liner *Oceanic*, after a rough voyage hit by bad weather. She, however, is still a day ahead of schedule.

11 25 JANUARY 1890, 3.51PM
New Jersey

After the *World's* owner, Pulitzer, charts a private train to bring her home, Bly arrives back to her starting point, where large crowds give her a rapturous reception.

comments made while she was in the clutches of a delay-causing storm during the trip from Hong Kong to Yokohama in Japan, suggest otherwise. “I’d rather go back to New York dead than not a winner,” she said.

PHOTO FINISH

Despite more heavy weather on Bly’s final boat ride, across the Pacific from Japan to San Francisco on the White Star Line ship *Oceanic*, she arrived back on American soil on 21 January, a day ahead of schedule. However, snowstorms had slowed rail travel. Disaster. Bly could feel Bisland’s breath on her back.

But unbeknown to Bly, her rival’s luck had just run out. In England, Bisland learnt that the fast German steamer *Ems*, due to take her from Southampton to New York, had been cancelled. She was forced to divert via Ireland to catch the much slower ship, the *Bothnia*.

Meanwhile, the *World’s* owner, Pulitzer, had chartered a private train to bring Bly home in style. The ‘Miss Nellie Bly Special’ set records of its own during that final leg, completing the 2,577-mile journey in 69 hours, passing crowds, to deliver Bly back to New Jersey on 25 January 1890, at 3.51pm – 72 days, 6 hours, 11 minutes

and 14 seconds after leaving. Bly had bested Fogg’s fictional journey time by over seven days. Bisland arrived five days later. 📍

GET HOOKED

LISTEN

For Bly’s 151st birthday in 2015, Karen O, lead singer of the Yeah Yeah Yeahs, penned *Nellie*, a song to accompany a dynamic Google doodle. The song and animation is widely available online.

READ AND WATCH

Matthew Goodman’s bestseller *Eighty Days: Nellie Bly and Elizabeth Bisland’s History-Making Race Around the World* is being developed for TV.



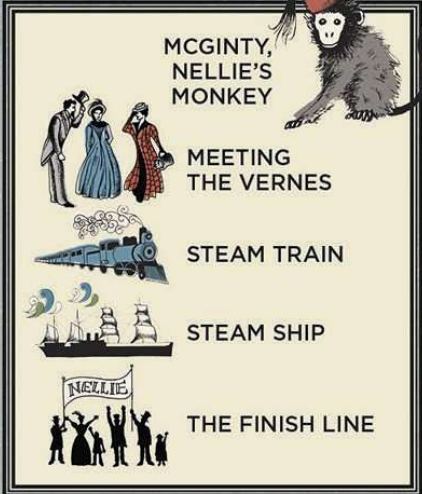
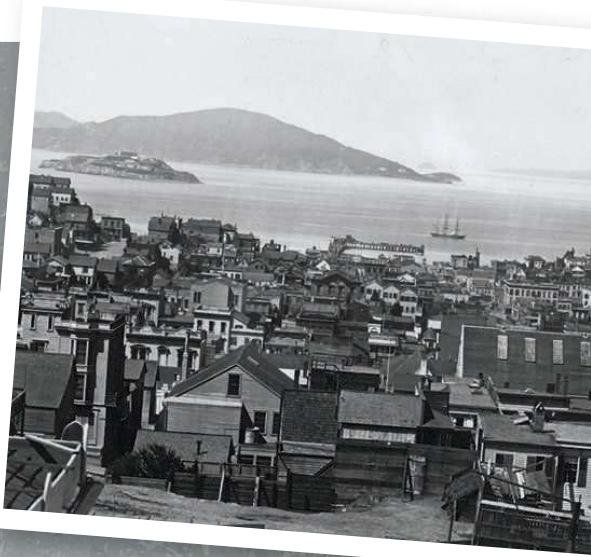
WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

The escapade worked out well for Verne, with *Around the World in Eighty Days* being re-issued in over ten new editions after Bly’s race. In 1895, Bly married millionaire manufacturer Robert Seaman, over 40 years her senior, retired from writing and became a businesswoman. After Seaman died his business went bankrupt, and she returned to journalism, covering women’s suffrage and spending a stint reporting from the frontline during WWI.

Bisland also continued to write. Both women died of pneumonia and were buried in New York City’s Woodlawn Cemetery.

WELCOME HOME

LEFT: The *World’s* front page on 26 January 1890 celebrates Bly’s feat
BELOW: San Francisco as it was in 1890, when Bly passed through



LONG LOST LOVE

Throughout her life in Britain and Belgium, Edith Cavell never married, although it has been claimed she had a **youthful romance with her second cousin, Eddy**. On the day of her execution, she wrote his initials in a book.

EDITH CAVELL: THE NURSE EXECUTED IN WORLD WAR I

On 12 October 1915, a British nurse was shot by a German firing squad, but that didn't end her impact on World War I

Hours before she was taken from the cell where she had spent the last ten weeks and executed, Edith Cavell had a visitor. Her friend, Reverend H Stirling T Gahan was permitted to enter the prison in Belgium on the evening of 11 October 1915 and, though there was nothing he could do to change the sentence awaiting the nurse the next morning, he hoped to share with her some kind words and the Holy Communion.

To his surprise, he found Cavell "perfectly calm and resigned". She spoke of the kind treatment towards her while imprisoned and thanked God for some quiet before the end, confessing, "This time of rest has been a great mercy." This courageous stoicism was nothing new. She dedicated her entire 49 years to helping others, giving little thought to herself – it's what drove her into nursing, and into a terrible war.

NURTURING AND NURSING

Born 4 December 1865 to a poor vicar, a young Edith Louisa Cavell

grew up with such principles as sacrifice and compassion. Along with three younger siblings, she was taught the Bible at the family home in the small Norfolk village of Swardston. A lover of dancing, art and tennis, Cavell's childhood was happy, and she showed signs of the unshakeable selflessness for which she would become famous. To pay for a new church room, she sold cards she painted with her sister, raising £300.

After school, Cavell had several jobs as a governess, including a five-year post in Brussels starting in 1890. When her father became ill in 1895, however, she returned to England to care for him and it was seeing his health improve that inspired Cavell to enter nursing. Her training at London Hospital didn't go as smoothly as hoped – her matron described her as "unpunctual" and "unreliable" – but Cavell persevered.

In 1897, she received a medal for treating the patients of a typhoid fever outbreak and, from 1898–1906, Cavell worked in hospitals across the country. In

1907, a burgeoning reputation led her to be appointed matron of Belgium's first nursing school, the Berkendael Institute. She almost single-handedly made it a centre of excellent care and treatment (when the Queen of Belgium broke her arm, she requested a Cavell-trained nurse), all while managing a number of schools, hospitals, nursing homes and giving four lectures a week.

WITHOUT PREJUDICE

But then came World War I. When she heard the news, Cavell was actually safe in Norfolk visiting her mother, but insisted

"I realise that patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness towards anyone."

Edith Cavell, speaking to her friend Reverend H Stirling T Gahan on 11 October 1915, the night before she was executed





NURSE AND MARTYR
MAIN: Edith Cavell, in Brussels before WWI, with her dogs Don and Jack
LEFT: A propaganda poster showing Cavell draped in the British and Belgian flags, while Death plays the piano



A HERO'S RETURN

Once her body was back in Britain, a memorial service was held for Edith Cavell at Westminster Abbey, with King George V in attendance. Her **body was then taken to Norwich**, where she was reburied in the cathedral.

THE JOURNEY HOME

When the war ended, Edith Cavell's body was exhumed and returned, with an armed guard, to Britain

on going back to Brussels. "At a time like this," she announced, "I am more needed than ever." Under her tireless direction, the Berkendael Institute, now a Red Cross hospital, treated the horrific injuries coming from both sides of the frontline. Her first duty was healing the sick, so any wounded soldier, even German and Austrian, received the same attention without prejudice.

This meant Cavell was able to stay in Belgium after the German occupation – which gave her the irresistible chance to save even more lives by sheltering Allied soldiers. Cavell was a key figure in the underground network, providing British, French and Belgian troops with refuge, false papers, money, food and guides to get them to the neutral Netherlands. For almost a year, Cavell risked her life helping some 200 men escape German hands. It wasn't patriotism or hatred of the enemy that motivated her dangerous deeds, but a commitment to protecting others and reducing, if only by a fraction, the war's body count.

Yet German suspicions grew and on 5 August 1915, Cavell was arrested. Other collaborators were also found out – but Cavell had hoped to save the Berkendael staff from incrimination with her

thorough safety measures, such as sewing her diary into a cushion.

PROPAGANDA ICON

For ten weeks, Cavell was held in solitary confinement, although in relative comfort. Displaying maybe a bit too much honesty, bordering on naivety, she made no attempt to hide her role in the underground and confessed. At her court-martial, Cavell was sentenced to death.

There was a last hope of rescue when newspapers called for diplomatic intervention, but the British Foreign Office claimed to be "powerless" and pleas for a reprieve from US and Spanish diplomats fell on deaf ears. So at 7am on 12 October 1915, Cavell was shot and quickly buried.

That, however, wasn't the end of her war effort. With her execution sparking global outrage, Cavell – portrayed as saintly, even angelic – became an iconic figure in propaganda. She became the ultimate patriot, but in truth, she was just trying to do what she had done her whole life: help others. 🎯

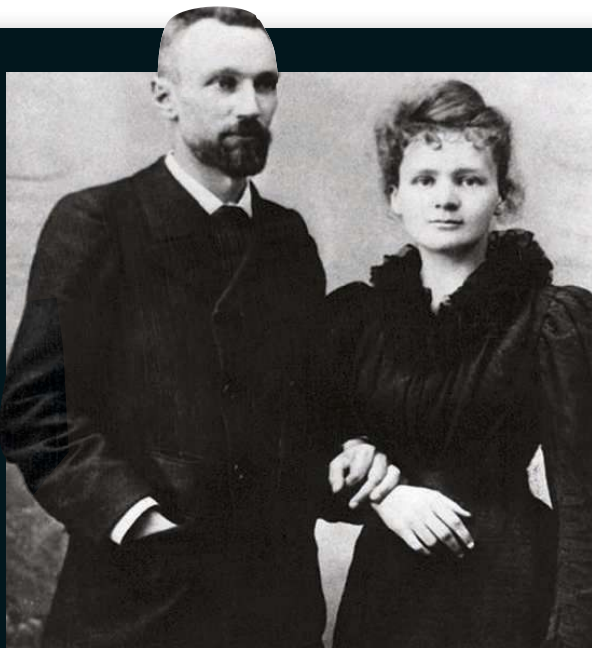
   **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**
 Who are the other unsung heroes of World War I?
 Email: editor@historyrevealed.com

PIONEERING POLE
Marie Curie remains the only person to scoop two Nobel Prizes in different scientific disciplines. She was a woman who refused to let her gender – or her private life – interfere with her career

MARIE CURIE

THE WOMAN WHO STIRRED UP SCIENCE

Marie Curie's discoveries of strange,
glowing radioactive elements
rocked Victorian Europe.
But, as **Jheni Osman** reveals, her
ground-breaking work also led
to her demise...



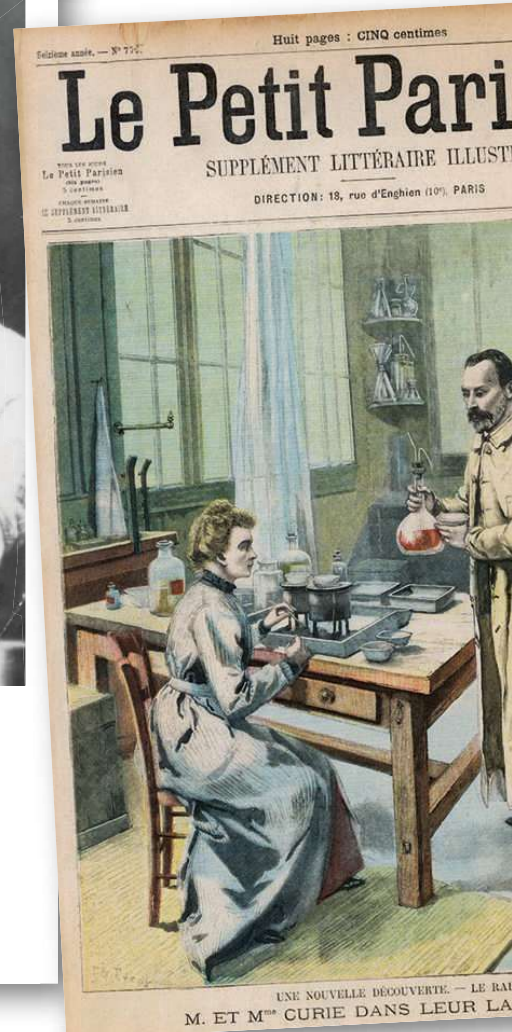
1894 THE MEETING OF MINDS

Marie falls for French physicist Pierre Curie and the couple marry a year later. In 1897, Marie gives birth to Irène. Her sister Eve follows in 1904.



JUNE 1898 PERIODIC TABLE ADDITIONS

The Curies discover a new chemical element, which Marie names polonium after her native Poland. Just six months later, the couple reveal another element – radium.



The rhythmic clamour of clapping palms filled the auditorium. Shaking hands and reaching out to receive her award, the winner compared it to the last time she'd been awarded the prize – that time she'd been standing alongside her husband. This was another momentous occasion. Another record-breaker, shaking up the chauvinistic world of science.

Only one person in history has received two Nobel Prizes in two different scientific fields. That person is Marie Curie. Outwardly shy and retiring, this obsessive genius was not only the first woman to be awarded a Nobel Prize, but the only woman to win twice. But she was to pay a heavy price for her ground-breaking work.

Born Maria Skłodowska on 7 November 1867 in Warsaw, in what was then the Land of the Vistula, part of the Russian Empire, she grew up in an intellectual but impoverished family. Her father was a physics teacher, staunch atheist and patriot, intent on an independent Poland. His views clashed with those of the authorities and meant he struggled to hold down a job. Maria spent her early years growing up in the boarding school that her devout Catholic mother ran.

But when her mother died of tuberculosis, 11-year-old Maria sought refuge by helping out her father in his laboratory. The quiet, rational world of pipettes and problem-solving was a far cry from the political turmoil outside. But when Maria turned 18, financial reality dragged her away from this safe haven. She struck a deal with her sister, Bronya. While Maria worked as a governess to the daughters of a Russian nobleman, she'd save her hard-earned cash to support Bronya while her sister studied medicine

her name to Marie. It was supposed to be a temporary move; her plan was to gain her teacher's diploma and then return to Poland once the eagle-eyed government had relaxed a bit. But Parisian labs and loves changed the course of her life forever.

SCIENCE VERSUS SEX

At first, Parisian life was a real challenge for a penniless student who was struggling to converse in French and renting a tiny, freezing

“There are sadistic scientists who hurry to hunt down errors instead of establishing the truth”

Marie Curie

in Paris. In return, once she'd become a doctor, Bronya would fund Maria coming to Paris to study.

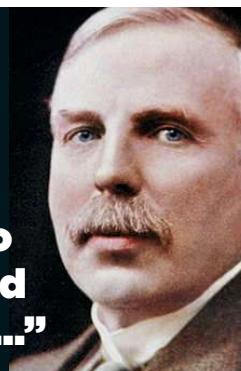
But after just two years, her left-wing politics had garnered the attention of Big Brother. So, aged 24, Maria moved to Paris and changed

attic room where she'd pile all her clothing on her bed to keep warm at night. Finding work was also testing for a young girl in the male-dominated world of science.

Marie repeatedly tried to find a job in a lab, but kept being met with rejection. Eventually she was given the chance to carry out some trivial tasks. But her technical proficiency immediately attracted attention, gaining the respect of her colleagues. It was while working in these labs that she met a certain scientist named Pierre Curie.

Both passionate about science, both leftist and secular, love soon blossomed. Pierre was already a big name in the scientific world; early on in his career, he had discovered so-called 'piezoelectricity' with his brother Jacques, and

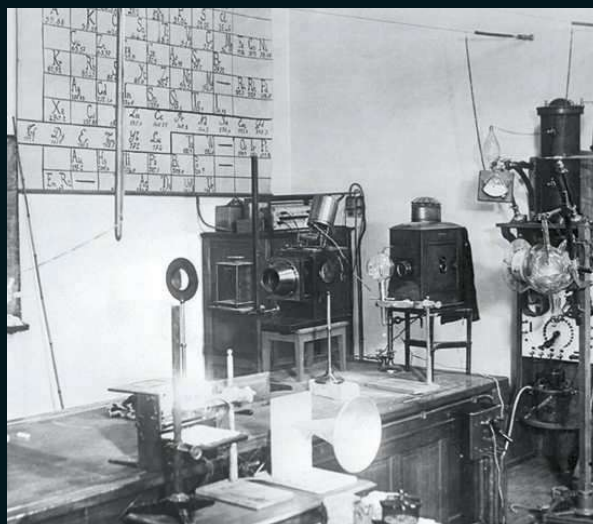
ERNEST RUTHERFORD, KNOWN AS THE 'FATHER OF NUCLEAR PHYSICS'
“I have to keep going, as there are always people on my track. I have to publish my present work as rapidly as possible in order to keep in the race. The best sprinters in this road of investigation are Becquerel and the Curies...”





DECEMBER 1903 NOBEL PRIZE HAUL

Marie and Pierre Curie are awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics, alongside Antoine Henri Becquerel, making Marie the first woman to ever receive a Nobel Prize. In 1911, Marie receives the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for her discovery of the new elements polonium and radium. To this day, she is the only person to win two Nobel Prizes in different scientific disciplines. In 1935, Marie's daughter Irène and son-in-law Frédéric Joliot take the family tally of Nobel Prizes up to five when they are awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry.



1909 THE FIGHT AGAINST CANCER

Marie helps found the Institut du Radium, which includes two sections: the Curie laboratory dedicated to physics and chemistry research, and the Pasteur laboratory for studying the biological and medical effects of radioactivity. In 1920, Marie and Claudius Regaud launch the Curie Foundation to help raise funds for additional resources. Later, a hospital opens where post-surgery cancer patients undergo radiation therapy.

he was currently the head of a laboratory at the School of Industrial Physics and Chemistry where talented engineers were trained.

In Pierre, Marie found a fellow intellect and confidant, someone with whom she could enjoy both musing over scientific theories and sharing excursions on their bicycles. But Marie rejected Pierre's first marriage proposal - her aim had always been to return to her native Poland. Love-struck Pierre volunteered to jack in his whole career and move to Poland with her. On a trip to see her family in 1894, however, she applied for a place at Kraków University, but wasn't accepted as she was a woman. So the pair ended up marrying in 1895 in the suburbs of Paris, with untraditional Marie wearing a dark blue outfit instead of a bridal dress, which reportedly became one of her lab outfits. They welcomed their first daughter Irène two years later, followed by Eve in 1904.

Marie didn't let motherhood get in the way of her work, though. Her supervisor Antoine Henri Becquerel had tasked her with investigating a bizarre phenomenon that he'd discovered. Intrigued by the recent discovery of X-rays and the way that certain materials glowed when exposed to bright light, in 1896 Becquerel had found that uranium salts could affect photographic plates through black paper even when the Sun wasn't shining.

Aided by a device that Pierre had invented, Marie set about solving the puzzle of these strange rays. Over the course of just a few days, she discovered that the element thorium gives off the same rays as uranium, and concluded that it wasn't the arrangement of atoms in a molecule that made it radiate, but the interior of the atom itself. This discovery was nothing short of revolutionary.

Chemists the world over grew to admire Marie's tenacity and the classical chemistry she practised. She would lock herself away in the "miserable old shed" as she called it, undertaking the back-breaking work of stirring enormous vats filled with pitchblende, dissolving it in acid to separate the different elements present.

The gruelling hours paid off. In June 1898, Marie and Pierre extracted a black powder 330 times more radioactive than uranium, calling their discovery polonium. Marie was unashamedly open about the fact that her native Poland inspired the name. At the time, this was quite a courageous political statement - a bit like today calling a new discovery 'ukrainium'. Six months later, the Curies announced they'd found another new chemical element, radium.

SHARE OF THE SPOILS

In 1903, Becquerel and the Curies shared the Nobel Prize in physics for their discovery of so-called 'radioactivity'. This was ground-breaking. No woman had ever won a Nobel Prize before. And, indeed, the award wasn't without controversy. The committee had voted for Becquerel to receive half the prize, and Pierre the other half. But one committee member queried why Marie shouldn't get some recognition. So Pierre and Marie ended up both receiving a quarter of the prize.

The Curies were the perfect match. While Pierre was a bit of a dreamer, Marie was a great networker, good at promoting their work. Despite this, Pierre was always the one who received greater recognition, such

1911: WHEN EINSTEIN WROTE TO MARIE...

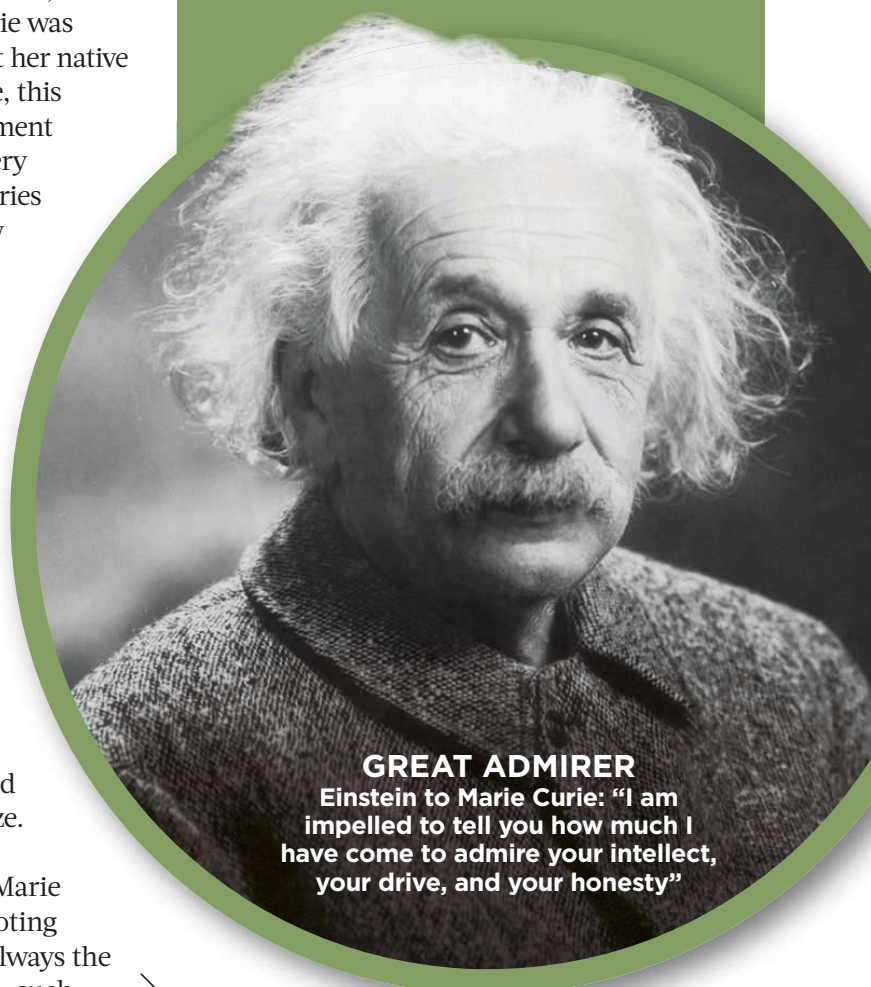
A LETTER OF DEVOTION

Highly esteemed Mrs Curie,

Do not laugh at me for writing you... But I am so enraged by the base manner in which the public is presently daring to concern itself with you that I absolutely must give vent to this feeling. However, I am convinced that you consistently despise this rabble, whether it obsequiously lavishes respect on you or whether it attempts to satiate its lust for sensationalism! I am impelled to tell you how much I have come to admire your intellect, your drive, and your honesty, and that I consider myself lucky to have made your personal acquaintance in Brussels. Anyone who does not number among these reptiles is certainly happy, now as before, that we have such personages among us as you, and Langevin too, real people with whom one feels privileged to be in contact. If the rabble continues to occupy itself with you, then simply don't read that hogwash, but rather leave it the reptile for whom it has been fabricated.

With most amicable regards to you,
Langevin, and Perrin, yours truly,

A Einstein



GREAT ADMIRER

Einstein to Marie Curie: "I am impelled to tell you how much I have come to admire your intellect, your drive, and your honesty"



OCTOBER 1914 ON THE FRONTLINE

Mobile X-ray units, developed by Marie, see their first action near the frontline in World War I. The machines diagnose injuries by X-raying wounded soldiers for bullets, shrapnel and fractures.



OCTOBER 1929 SHOW ME THE MONEY

Marie establishes a radioactivity laboratory in her hometown of Warsaw, to which US President Herbert Hoover contributes \$50,000 in 1929 for the purchase of radium to use in the lab.



4 JULY 1934 UNTIMELY DEATH

Marie dies from aplastic anaemia, a condition where the bone marrow doesn't produce enough new blood cells, almost inevitably caused by radiation exposure. Even today, her notebooks are still so laced with radioactivity that they have to be stored in lead-lined boxes.

as when *Vanity Fair* ran an article on 'Men of the Year', which featured an image of Pierre triumphantly holding up a piece of radium chloride, while Marie stood demurely behind.

But just when the Curies seemed to be flying high, Pierre had a tragic accident. In April 1906, he tripped under a horse and cart and died instantly from a skull fracture. Initially, Marie showed no external sign of grief and reportedly just kept repeating: "Pierre is dead". But behind the steely demeanour, she was devastated. Over time she grew introverted and lost herself in her work.

She moved the family to the outskirts of Paris, where Pierre's father played a big role in

a married man with four children. When his wife (from whom he had separated) discovered the passionate affair, rumour has it that she leaked the details to a tabloid newspaper. Despite Langevin's reputed wish to fight a duel against the journalist who broke the story, Marie was so vilified by the press that she decided to end the affair. However, the 'home-wrecker' label affected her professional life too, almost causing her to miss out on her second Nobel Prize. The Swedish Academy of Sciences had tried to dissuade her from coming to Stockholm to receive the award - this time for chemistry.

"I believe there is no connection between my scientific work and the facts of private life"

Marie Curie defends herself against "libel and slander"

helping to bring up his granddaughters. From conferences in far-flung locations around the world, Marie wrote heart-wrenching letters to her daughters saying she wished she could see them more. Torn between family and science, Marie continued to throw herself into her work. Following Pierre's death, she took his place as Professor of General Physics in the Faculty of Sciences, the first woman to have held this position. But in her personal life, Marie was lonely.

In 1910, 43-year-old Marie sought comfort in the arms of another - scientist Paul Langevin,

In response Marie said: "The prize has been awarded for the discovery of radium and polonium. I believe that there is no connection between my scientific work and the facts of private life. I cannot accept ... that the appreciation of the value of scientific work should be influenced by libel and slander concerning private life."

A DEADLY DOSE

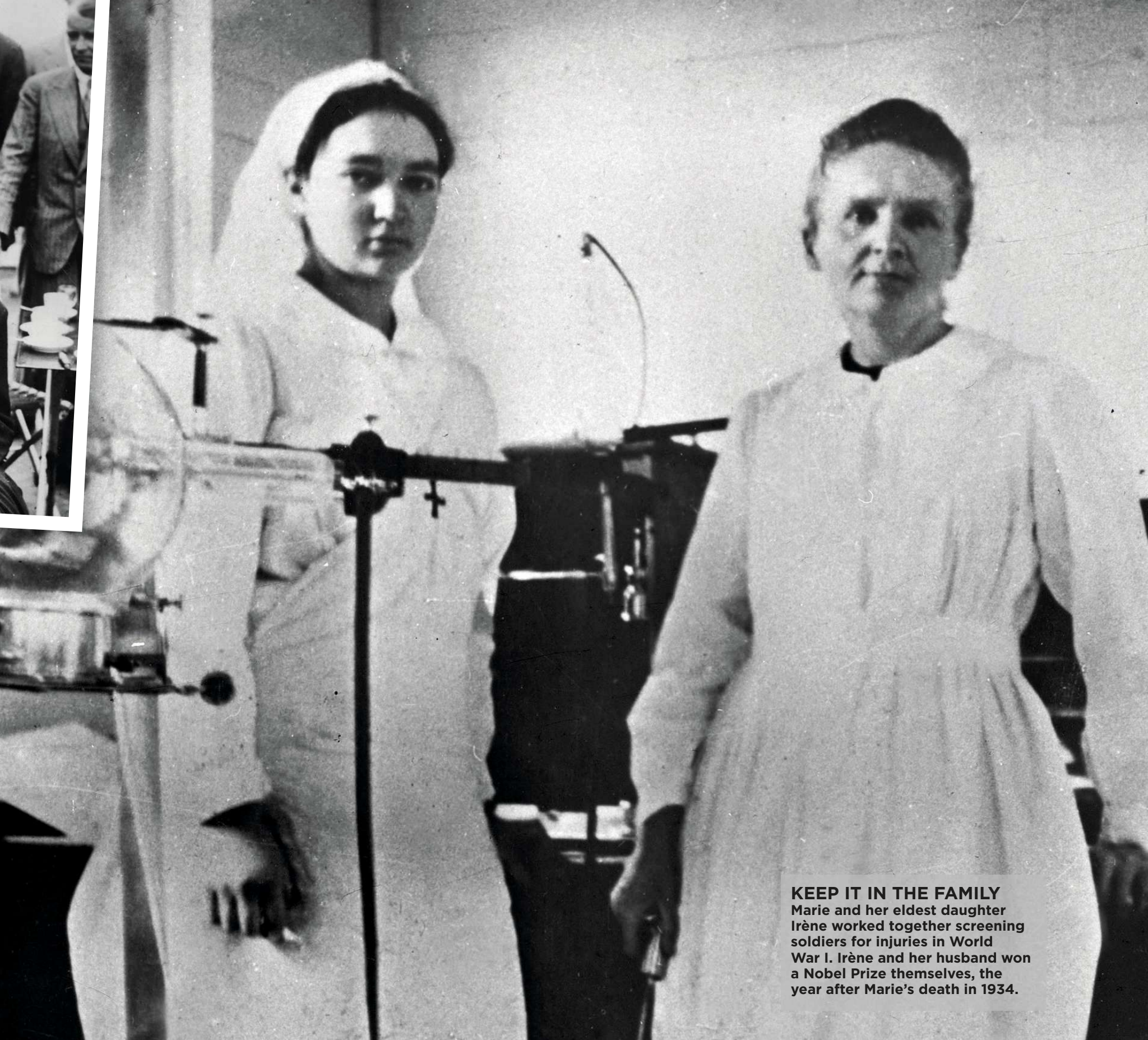
Marie's reputation remained tarnished until her heroic efforts to help wounded French soldiers during World War I (see 'Marie Curie's

legacy', opposite). Sadly, Marie's hard work got the better of her in the end. Today, exposure to high doses of radioactive material is avoided at all costs, but the long hours she spent in her lab eventually led to her demise. Marie died in 1934 from aplastic anaemia, a condition where the bone marrow doesn't produce enough new blood cells. Her death was almost certainly the result of overexposure to radiation.

When first discovered, radium was like nothing ever seen before - glowing in the dark and warm to touch. In the 1920s and '30s, quack medicines were all the rave, from radioactive toothpaste to ointments, and radium was used in everything from watches to nightlights. But this 'magical' element had an ominous side, too. In 1901, Becquerel reported how his vest pocket had been burnt when he carried an active sample of radium in it. Lab assistants suffered from aching limbs and sores on their fingers where they had handled radioactive material.

Marie must have known she was dicing with death. So why did she continue to work with radioactive substances? Most likely because she was in denial, as she was so obsessed with her work. Considering the extent of her exposure to radioactivity during her lifetime, she was pretty lucky to make it to the age of 66.

Hers was a life full of scientific endeavour, some scandal and sad moments, but also huge success. Few would argue against her place in the annals of science. 📍



KEEP IT IN THE FAMILY
Marie and her eldest daughter Irène worked together screening soldiers for injuries in World War I. Irène and her husband won a Nobel Prize themselves, the year after Marie's death in 1934.

ETERNAL SAINTHOOD

MARIE CURIE'S LEGACY

For a poor Polish migrant in the male-dominated world of science, Marie was incredibly successful. She left an impressive legacy - the unit of radioactivity (the curie), the element curium and a global charity are all named after her. Nobel Prizes aside, perhaps it was her ability to juggle a stellar career with family life that was her greatest achievement.

Marie had two daughters, Irène and Eve. Eve became a journalist and writer, while her older sister followed in her mother's footsteps. Just like Marie, Irène was bright yet obsessive, shunning vanity and at

times socially awkward. With her husband Frédéric Joliot, Irène worked on the nucleus of the atom and together they were awarded a much-coveted Nobel Prize in chemistry in 1935 for their work on the discovery of artificial radiation. But Irène also ended up dying from a radiation-related illness - leukaemia - in 1956. She was exposed to radiation in her teens while helping Marie with mobile X-ray units that were used in World War I. It was these X-ray units, and her heroic efforts during the war, that turned Marie from sinner to saint. After her love affair in

1910 with a married man was splashed all over the papers, her reputation was in tatters. But, by developing the small, mobile X-ray units that could be used to diagnose injuries near the frontline, Marie diverted attention away from her love life and back to her work. Not satisfied with simply creating the device, she then toured around Paris, fundraising in her role as Director of the Red Cross Radiological Service. By October 1914, the units were ready for use on the frontline where Marie and Irène worked tirelessly, X-raying the wounded for bullets and breaks.

GERTRUDE BELL, QUEEN OF THE DESERT

The English explorer, writer, cartographer, archaeologist, diplomat, linguist and spy left her mark on the Middle East

“Confound the silly chattering windbag of conceited, gushing, flat chested, man-woman, globetrotting, rump-wagging, blethering ass,” remarked the English diplomatic adviser Sir Mark Sykes to his wife. But who was he talking about that could inspire such an ire-fuelled rant?

As a woman in the male-dominated world of the early 20th-century Middle East, Gertrude Bell confronted prejudice from her male counterparts. Highly intelligent and ambitious, she intimidated Persian rulers, British officers (and diplomatic advisers) alike, ruffling many a colonial moustache. But despite the obstacles, the ‘Queen of the Desert’ helped to build a country and crown a king...

ADVENTURER

After achieving a first-class degree in modern history from the University of Oxford in 1888, Bell went looking for adventure. She travelled the world twice and built a reputation as a formidable mountaineer (in 1901, a Swiss Alps peak was named after her – the Gertrudspitze).

From her 1892 visit to Tehran, however, she was enamoured with the Middle East. While exploring the deserts of Persia and Arabia with local Bedouins, she taught herself archaeology, mapped uncharted areas and learned

Arabic, Persian and Turkish. But despite the dangerous terrains, Bell always seemed at home travelling, and never wanted for comfort – her trunks included fashionable evening gowns, Wedgwood china and rugs, and she was always beautifully attired.

Her path crossed with another English explorer, TE Lawrence – better known as Lawrence of Arabia. As they worked together and shared a love for the cultures

and people of the Middle East, they become close friends.

WORLD WAR I

When war was declared in 1914, Bell and Lawrence caught the attention of British Intelligence and were invited to join the Arab Bureau. There, Bell helped British soldiers get through the desert and gathered information.

After British forces captured Baghdad in 1917, Bell was made

“The great pleasure in this country is that I do love the people so much... I don’t think I shall ever be able to detach myself permanently from the fortunes of this country.”

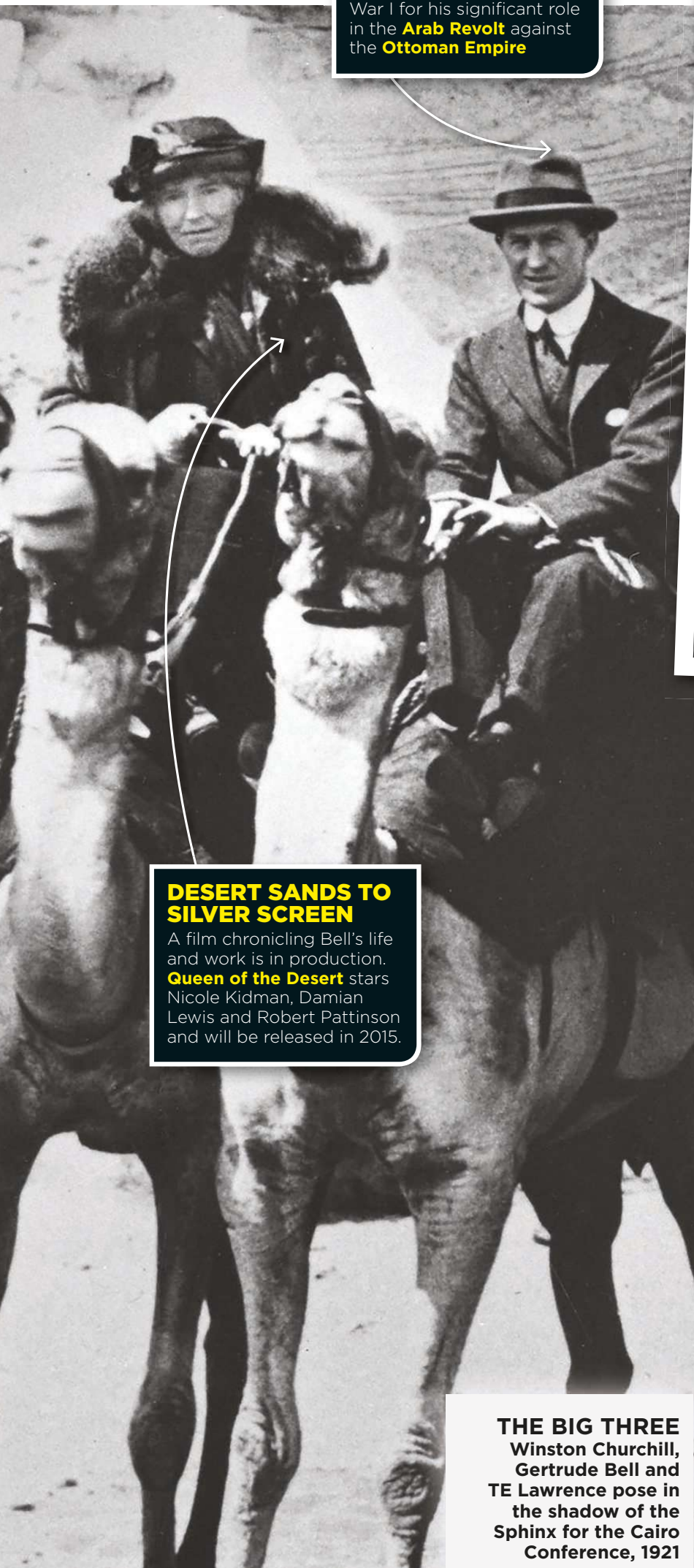
Gertrude Bell, 1917, in a letter to her parents



MEAL FIT FOR A KING
Bell sits at a picnic next to King Faisal I of Iraq (second from the right) in 1922

LAWRENCE OF ARABIA

The British army officer TE Lawrence rose to prominence during World War I for his significant role in the **Arab Revolt** against the **Ottoman Empire**



DESERT SANDS TO SILVER SCREEN

A film chronicling Bell's life and work is in production. **Queen of the Desert** stars Nicole Kidman, Damian Lewis and Robert Pattinson and will be released in 2015.

THE BIG THREE
Winston Churchill, Gertrude Bell and TE Lawrence pose in the shadow of the Sphinx for the Cairo Conference, 1921

THE WOMAN WHO MADE IRAQ

A gifted cartographer, Bell drew the borders of the new country



Oriental Secretary, making her the first woman enlisted as a military intelligence officer, and was awarded a CBE for her work maintaining relations with the Arab population.

KINGMAKER

By the end of the war, British policy in the Middle East was in a mess. Bell, now an outspoken, powerful official and key policy maker, was mediating between the three Ottoman regions of Mosul, Basra and Baghdad, while protecting British interests. It was clear that a long-term solution was required. Winston Churchill, Colonial Secretary at the time, organised a conference in order to create a new independent state in Mesopotamia under British mandate. Bell was chosen as the only female delegate for the Cairo Conference of 1921.

Not only did Bell draw the borders of this new country, named Iraq, but she put forward the candidate for its king – Prince Faisal. Bell wrote to her father shortly afterwards: “You may rely upon one thing – I’ll never engage in creating kings again; it’s too great a strain.”

FINAL YEARS

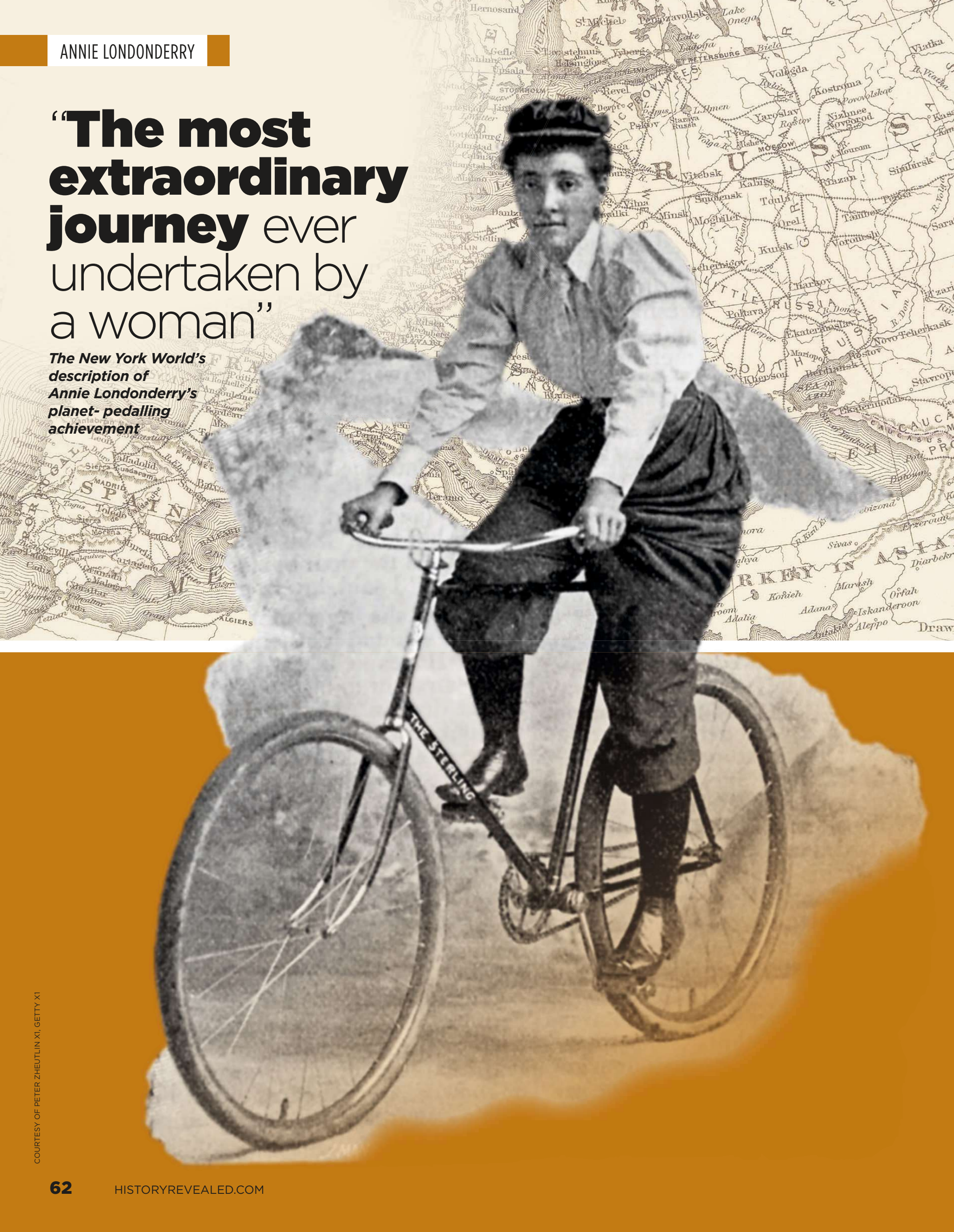
Bell was always passionate in her work, but her achievements disguised a crushing loneliness and depression. She had been in love once but it ended in tragedy. Bell had met the unhappily married army officer Major Charles Doughty-Wylie in 1907 and the pair began sending love letters in 1913. Despite the passion of their letters, it is thought their affair was never consummated. Both felt bound by propriety, and Doughty-Wylie couldn’t face the shame of a divorce. He died in April 1915, during an attack at Gallipoli. Bell was devastated.

Stepping back from politics, Bell spent her last years establishing the Baghdad Archaeological Museum, which remains a monument to her work today.

On 12 July 1926, aged 57, Bell died in Baghdad from an overdose of sleeping pills. It is unclear whether it was deliberate. She is buried in the country she helped create where people still remember her fondly. She must have been used to opinions like those voiced by Sykes, but Bell never faltered in her dedication to the Middle East. 📍

“The most extraordinary journey ever undertaken by a woman”

The New York World's description of Annie Londonderry's planet-pedalling achievement



ANNIE LONDONDERRY BICYCLING GLOBETROTTER

Pat Kinsella follows the tyre tracks
of a bloomer-wearing biker girl
who completed a surprise cycling
circumnavigation of the world –
but was she pedalling the planet or
peddling a myth?

In 1894, in an apparent bid to resolve a bet about the ability of women to match men in feats of physical endurance, a 24-year-old woman set off to make history by circumnavigating the planet on a bicycle, carrying little more than a change of underwear and a pearl-handled revolver.

The Jules Verne-like venture shocked and outraged those who held fast to Victorian values in the sunset years of the 19th century, not least because Miss Annie Londonderry – as she called herself – soon dispensed with traditional women's cycling attire (cumbersome long skirts) and began biking in bloomers.

Starchy onlookers' eyebrows arched even higher, and detractors set their expectations yet lower, when they discovered Miss Londonderry was actually Mrs Annie Cohen Kopchovsky, a married woman with three young children.

Little about this adventure was quite as it seemed, however, least of all its main character. Annie had an interesting approach to the truth, and throughout the course of her extraordinary escapade she never let facts stick in the spokes of a good story.

But she did blaze a trail around the world with a bicycle, and her antics enthralled an international audience at the time, which makes it all the more surprising that memory of her mission evaporated from the public consciousness so quickly, until being recently reinvigorated.

LOOPY TIMES

Between steam-powered transport, the roll-out of railway tracks across the world and the opening of the Suez Canal, the globe had significantly shrunk by the second half of the 19th century, and a swathe of round-the-planet records were set following the 1873 publication of Jules Verne's adventure novel *Around the World in Eighty Days*.

In 1889–90, the very real female journalist Nellie Bly beat the fictional Phileas Fogg by encircling Earth in 72 days, and such circumnavigations soon became quite common. George Francis Train, who'd claimed to be the original Fogg, subsequently whittled the round-the-world record down to 67 and then 60 days.

The bicycle had only been around in recognisable form since 1817, when Karl Drais launched his 'velocipede' – the first two-wheeled machine with a steerable front wheel. Yet, by December 1886, Englishman Thomas Stevens had become the first person to pedal the planet, having set off on his large-wheeled Ordinary (a penny-farthing) from San Francisco in April 1884.

Bicycles had become symbolic freedom machines for women too, despite determined efforts in some quarters to suggest bike riding was a physically or morally harmful activity for females (ailments including 'bicycle face' were invented, and there was much frumpish frowning over the possibility that cycling could be sexually stimulating for women).

THE MAIN PLAYERS

ANNIE LONDONDERRY

Born into the Cohen family in Latvia circa 1870, Annie came to the US in 1875 and married Max Kopchovsky in 1888. Having worked as an advertising saleswoman, she became better known by the name she initially adopted as a commercial stunt for her cycling adventure, and kept for her subsequent career in journalism.

THOMAS STEVENS

English-born Stevens was the first person to complete a cycling circumnavigation of the planet. Riding a penny-farthing and leaving from San Francisco on 22 April 1884 (with some spare socks, a rain coat that doubled as a tent and a revolver) it took Stevens two-and-half years to complete the feat, which came to an end with his arrival back in San Fran in December 1886.

PAUL JONES

Pseudonym of one EC Pfeiffer, a Harvard student who achieved fleeting fame in 1894 after he claimed to be walking around the world for a \$5,000 bet. The story proved to be 'fake news', but the publicity generated is thought to have sewn the seed that led to Annie's adventure.

DR ALBERT REEDER AND JOHN DOWE

The men identified in some sources as the "two wealthy clubmen of Boston" who placed the wager that spurred Annie's challenge. Reeder existed, but there are no records for Dowe, and many doubt any such bet ever took place.

Thomas Stevens was the first person to cycle the globe by bike

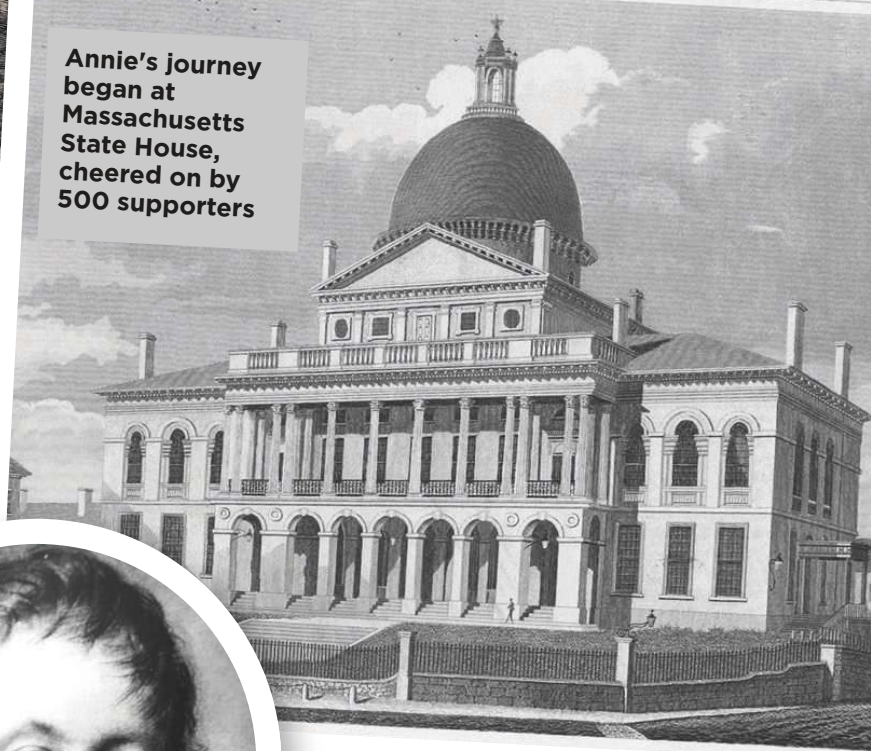
Annie soon ditched her long skirt for more practical bloomers





Bicycles represented freedom for many disaffected women

Annie's journey began at Massachusetts State House, cheered on by 500 supporters



Karl Drais invented the 'velocipede', the first really recognisable version of the modern bicycle

"[The bicycle] has done more to emancipate women than anything else in the world," suffragette Susan B Anthony famously proclaimed in 1896. "I stand and rejoice every time I see a woman ride by on a wheel."

And ride by they did, in ever-greater numbers. Contemporary women such as Fanny Bullock and Elizabeth Pennell were cycling large distances by the 1890s. But Annie herself had never been on a bike in her life until just a few days before she set off to circumnavigate the world on two wheels, and the origins of her involvement in this globe-trotting gallivant are steeped in mystery.

UNLIKELY SPOKESWOMAN

Annie Kopchovsky was a working mother, a fraction over five feet tall, who couldn't cycle. On the surface, a less likely candidate to confound stereotypes about the so-called softer sex could scarcely have been found, but Annie would soon demonstrate rare reserves of determination, courage and cunning.

Born with the surname Cohen, Annie was a Jewish Latvian immigrant to the US, a proud 'new woman' and an absolute expert at harnessing the sensationalist appeal of 'fake news', well over a century before the concept had been invented.

The true tale of how Annie became embroiled in a globe-rounding gamble has been lost to time. The story, as it was reported in the papers, begins with two "wealthy clubmen of Boston" discussing the antics of a chancer calling himself Paul Jones, who'd made headlines by claiming he was walking around the world to win a \$5,000 bet. The men went on to wager "\$20,000 against \$10,000" that no woman could perform a similar feat.

Shortly afterwards, Jones – revealed as a Harvard student called Pfeiffer – admitted he'd

made up his story, but by then the stage was set for Annie to prove a point for her gender. The eccentric terms of the bet required her not just to circumnavigate the world by bicycle within 15 months, but also to earn \$5,000 en route, over and above expenses, after starting without even a cent in her saddlebag.

The identity of the two wager-waving protagonists has never been properly verified, and it's possible they never really existed. Speculative theories have Annie taking on the challenge for the benefit of her original sponsor (Colonel Albert Pope, owner of Boston's Pope Manufacturing Company who made Columbia bicycles); to make a bold point for feminism; as a basic business venture; or simply for the sheer hell of it.

What's beyond doubt, though, is that Annie was a masterful media manipulator. She shamelessly and constantly spruiked conflicting stories about her background and the adventure she was undertaking, variously claiming to be an orphan, a wealthy heiress or a qualified lawyer. All of which whoppers were dwarfed by tales told about her exploits and experiences during and after the expedition itself, which grew taller by the month.

The papers and the public lapped it up, falling in love with the attractive young woman. "Any horrid man who says she is not good looking ought to be taken out back of a cow shed and knocked in the head with an axe," an *El Paso Daily Herald* reporter purred.

And attention led to sponsorship, beginning with a deal seemingly hatched right on the starting line, when New Hampshire's Londonderry Lithia Spring Water Company paid \$100 in cash to hang an advertising placard on Annie's bike and adopt the company name as her moniker for the duration of the journey.

MAIDEN VOYAGE

Annie's carefully stage-managed grand depart took place in front of a crowd comprised of 500 supporters, suffragettes and curiosity chasers amassed on the steps of Boston's Massachusetts State House on 25 June 1894. Despite reports of

£100

Amount Annie was paid to advertise Londonderry Lithia spring water on her bike



SPORT TRAIT
STUDIO,
BOSTON, MASS.

An early mistake cost Annie five months of precious time after she failed to factor weather conditions across the Rockies. Annie artfully navigated a globetrotting route that included huge amounts of time aboard steamboats, and simply went for day rides while in port. She also hopped on at least one train, but still completed an impressive independent cycling expedition right across France, the US and parts of Asia.

Massachusetts State House, Boston, Massachusetts, US

2 24 SEPTEMBER
Chicago

3 24 NOVEMBER
New York

4 DECEMBER
Le Havre, France

5 JANUARY – FEBRUARY 1895

6 FEBRUARY – MARCH

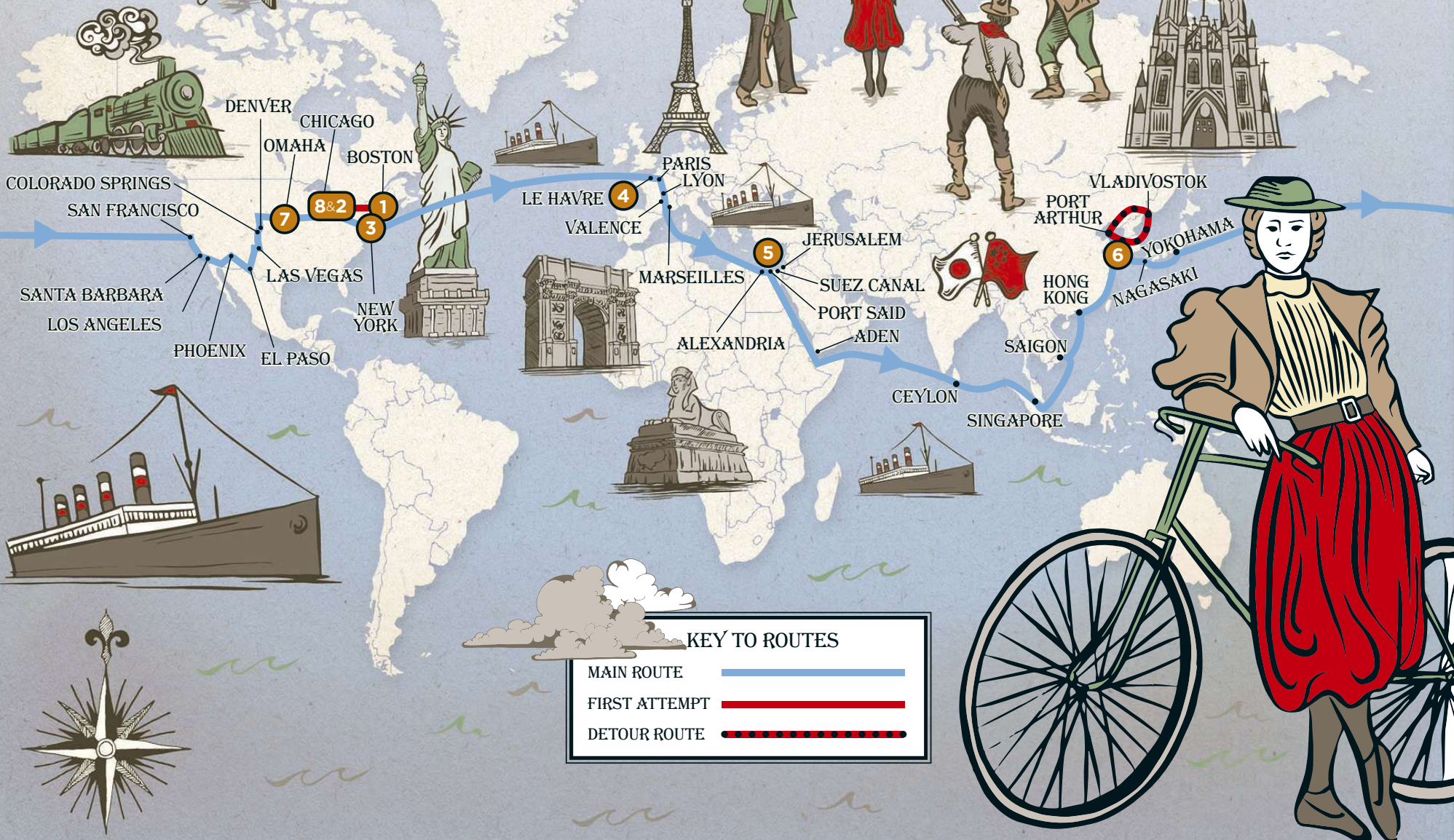
A black and white photograph showing a man in a hat and dark clothing holding a long rifle, aiming it at a woman on a bicycle. The woman is wearing a light-colored dress and a hat, and she is waving her hand. They are in a field of tall grass.

A reconstruction of the robbery that took place while Annie was cycling through France

7 MARCH – JULY
The American West

8 12 SEPTEMBER
Chicago

An illustration of a horse-drawn carriage with a man and a woman inside. The horse is grey and rearing up. In the background, a person is on a bicycle, wearing a red skirt and a green hat. The scene is set on a light blue ground with white clouds.





This advertisement for Londonderry Lithia spring water appeared in the *Rocky Mountain news*



8mph

Annie's average speed on the roads – not all that fast by today's standards

how she “sailed away like a kite down Beacon Street” on her Columbia bicycle, she didn’t actually begin the expedition for another two days, after bidding her young family adieu.

Following detailed route instructions published in touring guides and scrounging accommodation as she went, Annie cycled straight through the Fens towards New York, before wobbling west to Chicago. This was a huge error, and by the time she arrived in the Windy City in late September, Annie realised it would be impossible to traverse the Rocky Mountains and reach San Francisco before the fast-approaching winter dumped impassable snow in her way. A diversion south would involve an extra 1,000 miles or more.

She was staring defeat in the face having only made it halfway across the US, but before quitting, Annie rekindled contact with another bicycle manufacturer, Chicago-based Sterling Cycle Works, who gifted her an Expert Model E Light Roadster, which was half the weight of the 42lb Columbia.

TAKE TWO

Equipped with a new steed, and having jettisoned her skirt in favour of bloomers, Annie felt rejuvenated. She rebooted the expedition – but not the clock – from Chicago, retracing her tyre tracks to New York and boarding *La*

Touraine bound for France in November. Following a less-than-friendly welcome in Le Havre, where officials temporarily confiscated her bike and money, Annie cycled the length of France over the following month, during which time she was allegedly attacked and robbed by a three-man gang. Local riders were supportive, however, and she eventually arrived in Marseilles (complete with a bandaged foot as a battle wound) to be greeted by a large and enthusiastic crowd, which she then proceeded to woo with characteristic aplomb.

By now, only eight months remained for Annie to complete the rest of the journey back to Chicago. Fortunately, the terms of the wager were woolly, and there was apparently nothing to stop her travelling large sections of the route by boat, hopping off here and there to do day rides around port cities.

Accordingly, Annie crossed the Mediterranean aboard the steamer *Sydney*, arriving in Egypt, where she claims to have done a side trip to Jerusalem. Via the Suez Canal and the Red Sea, she sailed on through the Gulf of Aden, past

Yemen, to Ceylon (modern-day Sri Lanka) and into Southeast Asia.

CHINESE WHISPERS

In early 1895, while the Sino-Japanese War was still in full swing, Annie spent several weeks in the region, seemingly travelling through hotly contested areas even as fighting flared. She claimed to have suffered a gunshot wound here, and wrote about being taken prisoner and witnessing a Chinese man being brutally slaughtered by a Japanese soldier right in front of her eyes.

According to Annie’s accounts, she met two war correspondents during this leg, travelling with them – she on her bike, and they on ponies – along rough roads to Port Arthur (now Lüshunkou), the scene of an infamous massacre that had taken place shortly before. Annie subsequently lectured and wrote about the conflict, claiming to have crossed Korea and ventured to Vladivostok in Russia, but hard evidence is lacking.

HIT AND HOME RUN

After reaching Japan and visiting Nagasaki, Annie sailed from Yokohama, reaching San Francisco in late March. Strangely, after all her apparent exploits within a warzone, it was once she arrived back on US soil that her closest scrape with death occurred, when an out-of-control horse and cart crashed into her in California. In her account of events, Annie was hospitalised for several days and coughed up lots of blood, but records reveal her giving a speech in Stockton the evening after the accident.

After riding across California, Arizona, Texas, Colorado and Wyoming, Annie took a train across Nebraska, apparently to avoid excessively muddy roads. From Fremont she saddled up once again, cycling into Chicago on 12 September 1895 to triumphantly claim victory in her quixotic quest.

Regardless of her rubbery relationship with the truth, and the fact that for a large part of her journey she travelled with, rather than on, her bicycle – pedalling only a fraction of the 13,500 miles cycled by Thomas Stevens a decade earlier – Annie’s achievement was huge. Whatever her real objectives and motivations, she’d made a massive statement about a woman’s ability to take on the fast-changing world on her own terms and prevail. 🎯

GET HOOKED

WATCH

The 2006 documentary *The New Woman: The Life and Times of Annie ‘Londonderry’ Kopchovsky* made by Spokeswoman Productions. www.spokeswomanproductions.com

READ

Around the World on Two Wheels: Annie Londonderry’s Extraordinary Ride by Peter Zheutlin. www.annielondonderry.com

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

Having won the wager – if indeed there ever was one – Annie continued to forge a career in journalism, writing a regular column for the *New York World*. Soon, however, she returned to ‘normal’ family life, giving birth to a fourth child and falling out of the public eye.

Regardless of the reliability of some of her reports, Annie had achieved her own ambitions –

proving that an immigrant Jewish woman could travel independently across the United States and around the world with (and sometimes on) a bike, and earn an independent income while doing so. Her story faded from view, however, until it was brought to the attention of a distant relative – writer Peter Zheutlin – who researched it and published a book about his now newly famous great grand-aunt.

HEARING AID

Keller said that lip reading was her version of 'hearing'. This was because, when she placed her fingers on the lips of people who were speaking, she could **feel the vibrations**.

HELEN KELLER AND ANNE SULLIVAN

The deafblind American child and the extraordinary teacher who freed her mind from its shackles

Young teacher Anne Sullivan was struggling with her unruly six-year-old pupil, Helen Keller. The child had been deafblind since she was a baby, unable to see or hear anything around her, imprisoned in her own mind. Sullivan was trying to teach her to communicate, but was making little progress. Then one day, an epiphany – Anne took Helen to the water pump and ran the cool liquid over her hand, while writing the word in the child's opposite palm. Helen finally understood what her teacher had been trying to get across – a moment that would forever change what it meant to be hearing and visually impaired.

PARALLEL LIVES

Anne understood Helen's frustration. Born in Massachusetts to poor Irish immigrants, she suffered an infection that left her nearly blind for the rest of her life. Her father abandoned the family, leaving them in the almshouse. Life was never easy. Her brother died just a couple of months after their arrival, and Anne was given several botched operations to fix her eyesight, all of which failed.

When the State Board of Charities came to inspect the notorious poorhouse, Anne begged them to send her to a special school, the Perkins School

for the Blind in Boston. Her lust for learning served her well, graduating as a valedictorian, and inspiring fellow graduates with her speech: "Duty bids us go forth into active life. Let us go cheerfully... and earnestly... to find our especial part."

Meanwhile in Alabama, Helen Keller was born to Arthur, a former Confederate captain, and his wife Kate. Helen was a perfectly healthy baby – until she contracted a fever aged 19 months, which left her blind and deaf. Irritated with her inability to communicate, she grew prone

teacher's teeth. Anne would get Helen to touch, smell or taste different items, and would trace the words on her palm. Initially, Helen saw these as games, nothing more – until her breakthrough with the water pump. By the end of that day, she had picked up 30 words.

NAME IN LIGHTS

The incredible story of Helen Keller captivated many notable figures, such as Mark Twain. News of the miracle child who had

"The most important day... is the one on which... Anne Sullivan came to me"

Helen Keller, in her autobiography The Story of My Life

to violent tantrums. At a loss as to what to do, the Kellers contacted Alexander Graham Bell, an expert on deaf people. He put them in touch with Perkins, who sent Anne Sullivan, their star graduate.

Anne instantly clicked with Helen, a child not unlike herself. Seeing through the outbursts, she saw a scared child longing to express herself, although she had to isolate Helen to cool her temper. During one particular fit, she knocked out one of her

learned to write – and even speak after a short stint at Perkins – spread across the nation. Wealthy philanthropists such as Andrew Carnegie took interest and helped pay for her education. With Anne's assistance, Helen became the first deafblind person to graduate from a US university.

After publishing her autobiography in 1903, Helen became a mascot for millions of disabled people worldwide. Embarking on a series of lectures

LIP READING

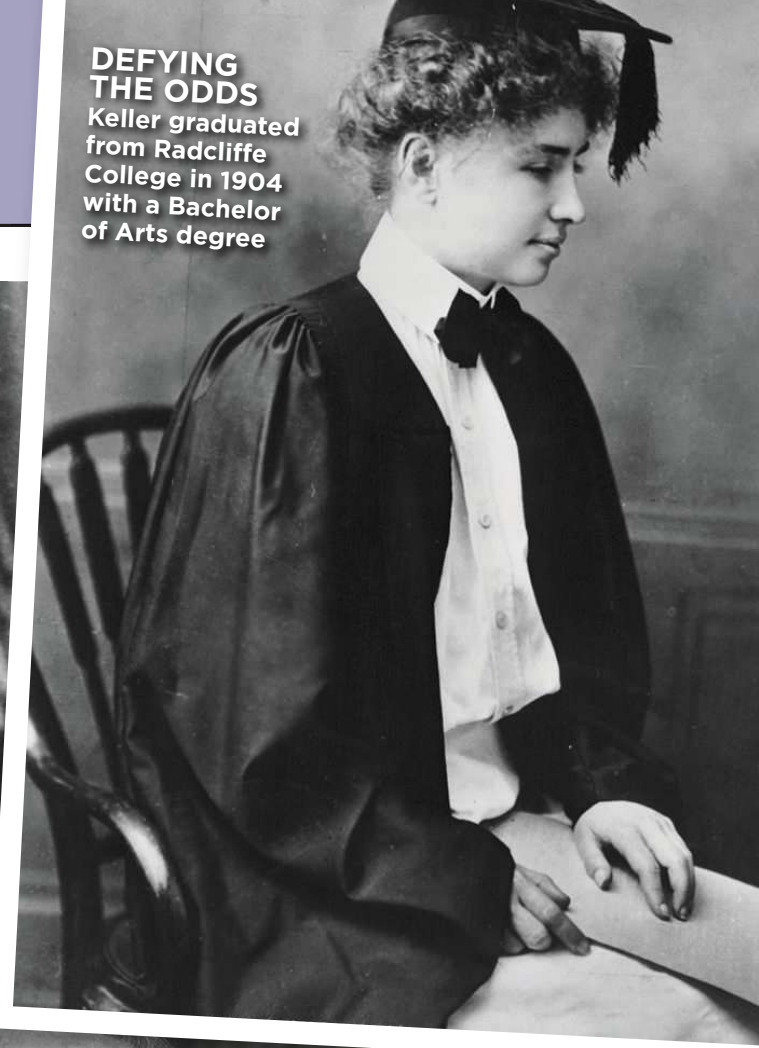
MAIN: Keller places her fingers on Anne Sullivan's lips, allowing her to understand the words she is saying
BELOW: Keller meets an injured soldier, Private Jim Tutton, in Australia in 1948



(her speaking voice could be difficult to understand, so Anne, her trusted companion, relayed the information to the audience), Helen and Anne toured the country with the American Foundation for the Blind.

All the while, however, the pair battled constantly with financial troubles. In an effort to raise money for their efforts, they starred in a silent movie

**DEFYING
THE ODDS**
Keller graduated
from Radcliffe
College in 1904
with a Bachelor
of Arts degree



A SIXTH SENSE?

Keller was impressed with President Eisenhower. After their meeting, she claimed she “**felt the courage and thought**” that carried him through such great years of the world’s history”.



VISIONARY
Helen Keller
meets Dwight D
Eisenhower

called *Deliverance* in 1919, which recounted Helen's tale in a melodramatic manner. A box-office bomb, the two women had to borrow money for the train fare home from Hollywood.

Staying in the entertainment industry, they decided that vaudeville was a better option. Helen's shows had a question-and-answer format, in which members of the audience would ask questions such as, “Do you close your eyes when you sleep?” Helen wittily replied, “I guess, but I never stayed awake to see”.

In the 1930s, Anne Sullivan's health began to fail. In 1936, with

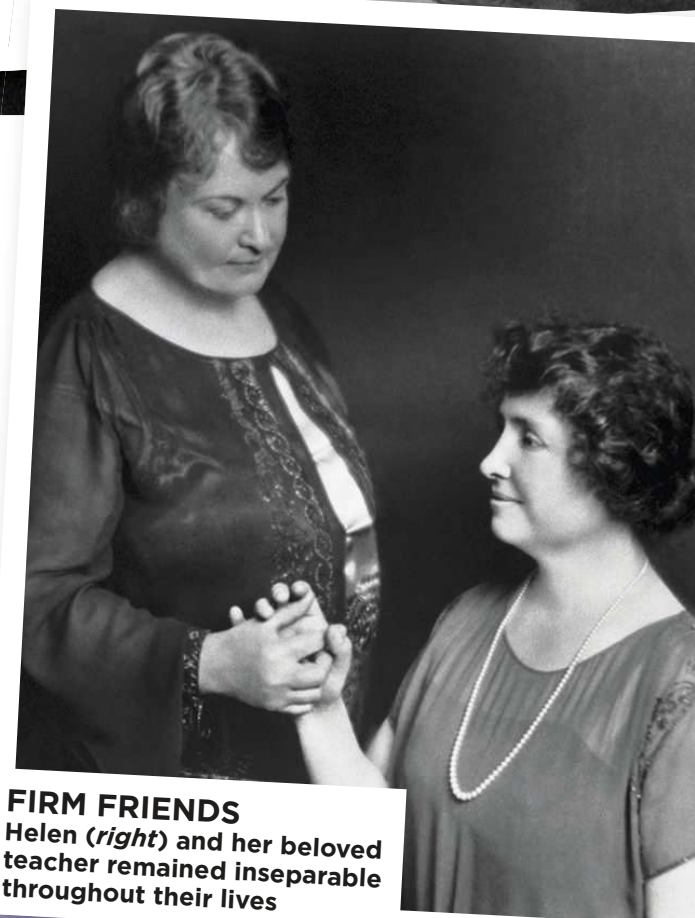
Helen holding her hand, she passed away aged 70. With her dying breath, Anne graciously uttered, “Thank God I gave of my life that Helen might live”. Her ashes were interred in the National Cathedral in Washington – the first woman ever to receive that honour.

FREEDOM AT LAST

Helen ensured Anne's legacy thrived. She continued to be a renowned speaker worldwide, advocating for the equality of disabled people, women and all races, as well as causes such as socialism and pacifism. Her visits

to veterans' hospitals during World War II meant that she inspired the victims of horrific injuries, and in turn, was inspired by the bravery she encountered.

Having met every president from Grover Cleveland to Lyndon B Johnson, Helen Keller received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from the latter, and died peacefully in 1968. Her ashes were placed next to her great friend and companion, the miracle-worker Anne Sullivan. 📍



FIRM FRIENDS
Helen (*right*) and her beloved teacher remained inseparable throughout their lives

AMELIA EARHART HER LAST FLIGHT

In 1937, the pioneering American pilot was set on one last flight – to circumnavigate the globe. But the lady of the skies would never make it home, as **Pat Kinsella** reveals...



“I have a feeling
that there is just
about one more
good flight left in my
system **and I hope
this trip is it.**”

Amelia Earhart

GROUND CONTROL
Ahead of take-off in California,
Earhart prepares her Lockheed
Electra 10E for its global journey

Waiting beneath the thick cloud of the Pacific skies on 2 July 1937, the crew of the *Itasca*, a US Coast Guard cutter, listens for a message from somewhere above. Then, at 07:42: “We must be on you, but we cannot see you. Fuel is running low. Been unable to reach you by radio. We are flying at 1,000 feet.”

Itasca was the radio contact for a twin-engine Lockheed Electra plane being flown by pioneering pilot Amelia Earhart, who was attempting to bag a prize she’d set her eyes on several years earlier: “A circumnavigation of the globe, as near its waistline as could be.”

Also on board was the highly accomplished navigator Fred Noonan, celestial navigation specialist. Having left the US in May, they were two thirds of their way around the planet. But the most challenging part of the mission remained, with 7,000 miles of flying across the immense Pacific Ocean still ahead of them. If all went to plan, Earhart would touchdown back in America, just in time to celebrate her 40th birthday.

This leg was technically the toughest of the entire route. They’d taken off from Lae in Papua New Guinea into dense cloud – problematic when using celestial navigation – and Noonan had to locate Howland Island, a tiny point in the Pacific, under 2 miles long and 0.5 miles wide, where the highest point is just over 5 metres above sea level.

The *Itasca* and two other ships close to the island had been instructed to illuminate themselves loud and proud, to help the pilot and her navigator to locate them if need be.

Leo Bellarts, the *Itasca*’s radio operator, had been listening to progress reports from Earhart since 02:45 that morning, but was experiencing problems contacting her. At 06:14, she’d informed him they were within 200 miles of the island. He responded, and yet again his voice vanished into the void.

With the realisation that the boat’s RDF system couldn’t talk to the plane’s 3015 kHz frequency, Bellarts says he was left simply “sitting there sweating blood because I couldn’t do a darn thing about it”.

At 08:45, Earhart spoke once more: “We are running north and south.” And then silence. The world-famous aviatrix had disappeared.

TRUE PIONEER

Earhart’s round-the-world odyssey began in Oakland, California, on 20 May 1937, but her journey towards a global circumnavigation attempt had started as early as 1904, when a seven-year-old girl with a precocious sense of adventure and slim regard for personal safety built a ramp from the roof of the family shed and propelled herself down it in a wooden box. The young Amelia Earhart emerged from the resulting splinters and enthused to her younger sister: “Oh, Pidge, it’s just like flying!”

THE MAIN PLAYERS



AMELIA EARHART

Aviation pioneer, first president of The Ninety-Nines (an organisation for women pilots) and the most famous aviatrix (as early female pilots were known at the time) ever.



FREDERICK NOONAN

Earhart’s navigator. A sea captain and aviation pioneer, he charted many routes across the Pacific for commercial airlines.



PAUL MANTZ

Plane racer and Hollywood stunt pilot. Taught Earhart to fly the Electra and went into business with her. Died filming *The Flight of the Phoenix* (1965).

GEORGE PALMER PUTNAM

Publisher, author and explorer. Instrumental in managing Earhart’s public image. Married her in 1931.

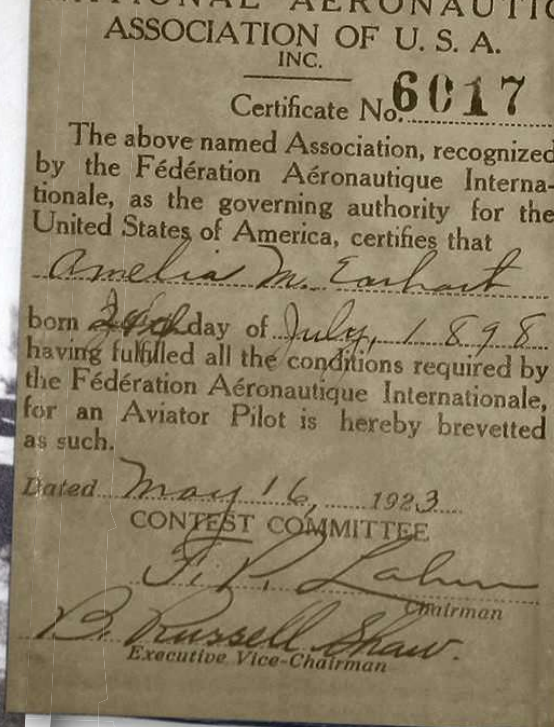
NETA SNOOK SOUTHERN

Pioneering aviator with a long list of firsts. She taught her friend, Earhart, to fly.

LIFELONG PASSION

BELOW: Though from a standard middle-class upbringing, the young Amelia yearned to fly
 FAR BELOW: The aviatrix’s iconic flight goggles – they fetched \$17,775 at a 2011 auction
 MAIN: Crowds gather to wave Earhart off in Northern Ireland after her solo Atlantic flight





“That little red airplane said something to me as it swished by”



10
The number of dollars paid, at a 1920 airshow, by Earhart's father for her first flight

A PILOT'S LIFE

LEFT: Two pioneers - Earhart with her teacher and friend, Neta Snook
RIGHT: Earhart's US pilot's licence

In her 20s, while watching a World War I flying ace at an air show, Earhart was swooped and buzzed by the pilot. “I believe that little red airplane said something to me as it swished by,” she said later. In 1920, racing pilot Frank Hawks took Earhart flying. After 10 exhilarating minutes in the sky, her mind was set: she would learn to fly.

Within months she became the pupil-prodigy of Anita ‘Neta’ Snook, one of the earliest female pilots, and on 15 May 1923, Earhart became just the 16th woman to be issued a pilot's license.

By the mid twenties, Earhart held an altitude record for female flyers and had started writing about aviation for newspapers. She was also building the foundation of a support organisation for female pilots.

A surprise phone call resulted in Earhart joining a flight from Newfoundland to Wales on 17 June 1928. The plane was piloted by Wilmer Stultz, with Louis Gordon acting as mechanic and co-pilot. Earhart didn't touch the controls, but found fame as the first woman to have flown across the Atlantic. “I was just baggage, like a sack of potatoes,” she said afterwards. “Maybe someday I'll try it alone.”

Earhart became the first woman to do a solo return flight across North America in 1928, and she took up air racing in 1929, competing in the first Santa Monica-to-Cleveland Women's Air Derby. During the race - which was nicknamed the ‘Powder Puff Derby’ - Earhart sacrificed her chance of victory by rescuing friend and fellow pilot Ruth Nichols, who had crashed during take-off.

By now she was writing for *Cosmopolitan* and endorsing products from Lucky Strike cigarettes to luggage. All the time her fame was growing, aided by her relationship with publicist George Putnam, who she later married.

Her first solo Atlantic flight attempt took place in 1932, with Earhart taking off from Newfoundland and aiming for Paris. It didn't

go entirely to plan – she landed in a field in Northern Ireland – but she was highly decorated for her achievement.

GLOBAL AMBITIONS

Many more firsts, records and race achievements followed, and serious planning for the round-the-world attempt began in 1936, with the purchase and modification of a Lockheed Electra 10E. Earhart received training on how to fly the aircraft from Hollywood stunt pilot Paul Mantz.

Initially, Earhart planned to travel westwards, taking on the vast Pacific puddle first, with Fred Noonan as navigator to Howland Island. Captain Harry Manning would then replace Noonan and go as far as Australia, from where Earhart would fly back to the States solo.

This trio, plus Paul Mantz as technical advisor, flew from Oakland to Honolulu, Hawaii, on 17 March 1937. When Earhart attempted to take off from Pearl Harbor three days later, however, the plane ground-looped and was severely damaged. Mantz blamed the accident on pilot error, but witnesses said a tyre blew.

After this mishap, Earhart didn't announce that her second attempt to fly around the planet had begun, until she and Noonan had already completed the first stage, from Oakland to Miami, Florida. The direction of the trip had been reversed, due to prevailing weather conditions, and Noonan was now navigator for the entire trip.

Putnam and a mechanic were also on-board for the US-crossing, during which they stopped to refuel in Burbank, California, Tucson, Arizona (where the plane caught fire, forcing an overnight stay) and New Orleans, Louisiana.

Finally the expedition was publicly announced, and on 1 June, Earhart and Noonan left Miami for San Juan, Puerto Rico, 1,038 miles across the Caribbean Sea. From Puerto Rico, they flew to Caripito, Venezuela, then continued down the South American coast, stopping at Paramaribo (present-day Suriname), and then Fortaleza and Natal in Brazil.

On 7 June, Earhart and Noonan set a new record for an eastern crossing of the South Atlantic (1,961 miles in 13 hours and 22 minutes) despite missing their intended stop in Dakar and having to divert north to Saint Louis in French West Africa (now Senegal).

They sustained some damage from a heavy landing in Fort-Lamy (now N'Djamena, Chad) and repairs were made in El Fasher, Sudan before continuing to the capital, Khartoum. They nailed another first by flying non-stop from the Red Sea to Karachi in India (now in Pakistan). Reaching Calcutta (Kolkata) on 17 June, they continued to Rangoon, Burma (now Yangon, Myanmar), Bangkok, Siam (Thailand), the city of Singapore and Bandoeng (now Bandung, Indonesia) where, delayed by a monsoon, they found time to repair

2,556

The distance, in miles, from Earhart's last stopover, Lae, New Guinea, to Howland Island

several faulty instruments.

Earhart suffered from dysentery here, but on 27 June they left for Darwin, Australia, where they ditched their parachutes, reasoning that they'd be useless over the Pacific.

Two days later they were in Lae, preparing for the tricky leg to Howland Island.

On 2 July, at exactly 00:00 hours GMT, Earhart and Noonan left Lae with 1,000 gallons of fuel, giving them up to 21 hours of flying time. They were never seen again.

SEARCH MISSION

President Roosevelt, whose wife knew Earhart, authorised a colossal air and sea search – the biggest of its kind to date – with 66 planes and nine boats scouring 250,000 square miles of ocean. Nothing was found, and Earhart was declared dead on 5 January 1939.

Earhart and Noonan's fate has been debated for decades, with theories ranging from the preposterous (Earhart, spying for Roosevelt, was captured by the Japanese and forced to work as Tokyo Rose during World War II) to the more prosaic and plausible – they ran out of fuel, ditched and drowned.

One theory suggests the plane landed on nearby Gardner Island (now Nikumaroro) where several interesting items have been found, including a navigator's sextant box. Furthermore, in 1940, a British colonial officer found human remains on the island that he believed were European and female. The bones were sent to Fiji for analysis, but were lost. And so the location of Earhart's final stop, and the end of her great adventure, remain a mystery. 📍

GET HOOKED

BOOK

East to the Dawn (1997) by Susan Butler is a full biography and includes Earhart's alleged affair with American aviator Gene Vidal.

TRAVEL

In Burry Port, Wales, where Earhart landed after her Atlantic crossing, there are engraved plaques, while the Amelia Earhart Centre is located just outside Derry/Londonderry, Northern Ireland..

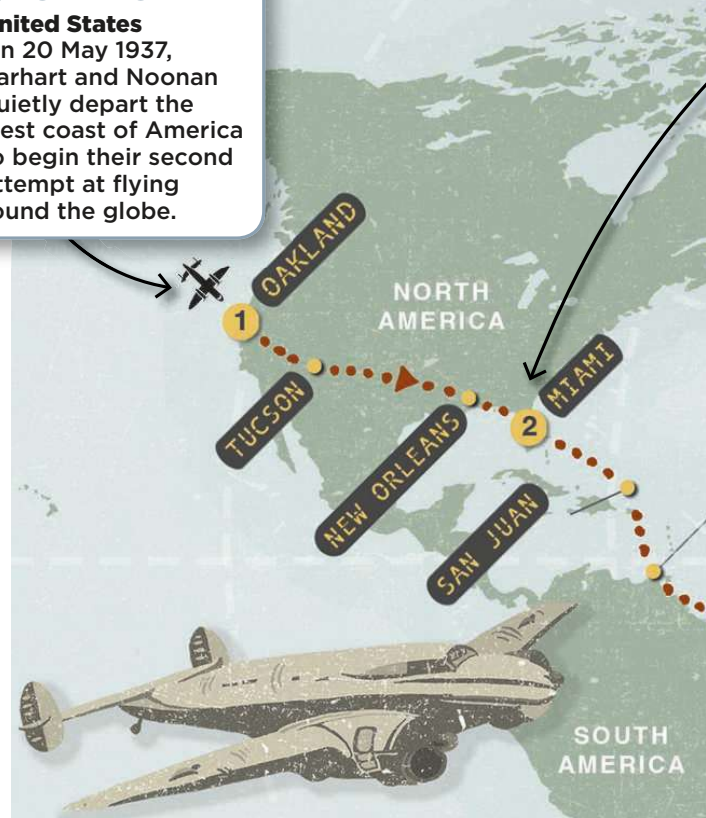


PUBLIC IMAGE

LEFT: Putnam, Earhart's publicist and husband, helps the pilot after her transcontinental flight of June 1931
ABOVE: Famous around the world, Amelia secured many lucrative advertising deals

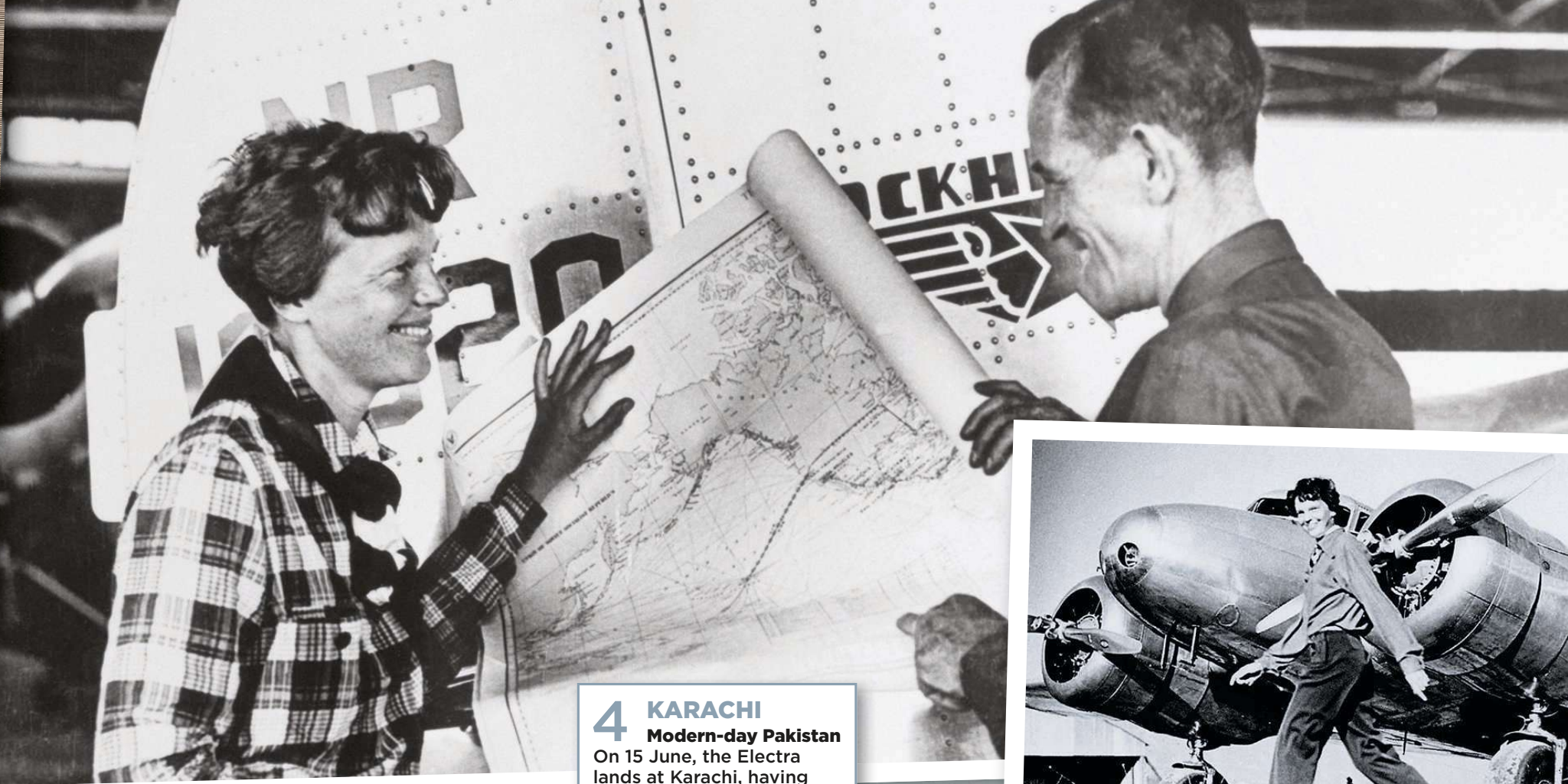
1 OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

United States
On 20 May 1937, Earhart and Noonan quietly depart the west coast of America to begin their second attempt at flying round the globe.



GEOGRAPHY

Earhart's flight wouldn't have been the first circumnavigation of the globe – some commercial airlines were already essentially flying around the world, many using routes mapped by Noonan. It would have been the longest (29,000 miles) though, as it was a near-equatorial route. Earhart hopped from airfield to airfield across the world, 20-odd hours at a time.



2 MIAMI, FLORIDA

United States
Having made public their round-the-world attempt, the duo take off on 1 June 1937, bound first for San Juan in Puerto Rico.

4 KARACHI

Modern-day Pakistan
On 15 June, the Electra lands at Karachi, having taken off from Assab in Eritrea, and Earhart becomes the first person to fly non-stop from the Red Sea to India.

5 BANDOENG

Now called Bandung, Indonesia
From 21-27 June the team is grounded by a monsoon. The pilot is also unwell and repairs to the aircraft are required.

ADVENTURE TIME

LEFT: Earhart and Noonan discuss the last leg of their route
ABOVE: Earhart strides past her plane, the Electra

6 DARWIN

Australia
Arriving 28 June, they packed and posted home their parachutes from here, reasoning they would be useless over the Pacific.



8 HOWLAND ISLAND


United States
Difficult to locate, this tiny island in the middle of the Pacific, between Australia and Hawaii, is the intended refuelling spot. But Earhart and Noonan never make it.

7 LAE

Papua New Guinea
Earhart and Noonan's last stop before leaving at noon (local time) on 2 June for Howland Island, which lies over International Date Line. This is the last place they are seen.

3 SAINT LOUIS

Modern-day Senegal
Leaving Natal, Brazil on 7 June, the aviators set a record for an eastern crossing of the South Atlantic. Finding themselves off course for the intended stopping point of Dakar, they divert to Saint Louis, about 100 miles north.

.....▶..... EARHART'S ROUTE
 DISAPPEARANCE OF PLANE & CREW



ROSA PARKS, CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST

One black woman refusing to give up her seat on a bus turned into a wider movement that fought segregation and inequality


African-Americans had wilfully violated the segregation of public transport before Rosa Parks, even in her hometown of Montgomery, Alabama, where 15-year-old Claudette Colvin was arrested nine months earlier for the same crime of refusing to give up her bus seat. Yet it was Parks' now-immortalised act of defiance that proved to be the spark that set the civil rights movement ablaze.

On 1 December 1955, Parks finished a tiring Thursday as a department store seamstress and boarded a bus to go home, taking a seat right behind the whites-only section. All the seats were soon taken and when a white man got on and stood in the aisle, the bus driver, James Blake, instructed four black passengers, including the 42-year-old Parks, to move. This was not her first run-in with Blake as, in 1943, he kicked her off his bus for entering through the front door rather than the back.

The others got up; Parks remained seated. She wasn't physically tired, as was claimed afterwards, but tired of giving in. Parks had been a passionate activist and member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) for years already, and knew the consequences of her refusal to move. She was arrested.

Her story came to the attention of Edgar Nixon, head of the local NAACP chapter, and lawyer Fred Gray, who had been waiting for an opportune case to attack segregation in the courts. They considered Parks to be the ideal spokesperson and she agreed, at great personal cost. Parks lost her job, put her

family in danger and received death threats for her commitment.

A one-day bus boycott was organised for the day of her trial, 5 December, but this was only the beginning. The resulting Montgomery Bus Boycott, lasting 381 days, successfully ended segregation on Alabama buses and signalled the next steps in the civil rights march: mass mobilisation, non-violence and the emergence of a charismatic leader, Martin Luther King. 



Barack Obama unveiled this full-size statue of Parks in the US Capitol Building in 2013



Parks (seen here with former US Vice President Al Gore) was honoured with a congressional gold medal in 1999



“Why did they push us around?” Parks asked one of the officers who arrested her. “I don’t know,” he replied, “but the law’s the law”.

**“You must never
be fearful about
what you are doing
when it is right”**

Rosa Parks



GETTY XI, © BANCO DE MÉXICO DIEGO RIVERA FRIDA KAHLO
MUSEUMS TRUST MEXICO, D.F./DACS

When this photograph
was taken, Frida Kahlo
was known simply as
Mrs Diego Rivera

FRIDA KAHLO

THE TORTURED ARTIST

Her face may be better known than her art, but Frida Kahlo's tragic history deserves just as much recognition, says **Alicea Francis**

They say that the flapping of a butterfly's wings in Brazil can cause a tornado in Texas; that a seemingly insignificant decision can change a person's life in the most unimaginable of ways. Frida Kahlo's butterfly moment occurred on 17 September 1925. She was boarding the bus home from school. Realising that she had left her umbrella behind, she disembarked and, after a fruitless search, boarded another.

The second bus did not reach its final destination. En route, it collided with a tram and Kahlo sustained near-fatal injuries. The course of her life, which until that point had been so clearly mapped out, had suddenly taken a dramatic turn – one that would see her rise to fame and become one of the most recognisable artists in global history.

Magdalena Carmen Frida Kahlo y Calderón was born in 1910, the first year of the Mexican Revolution – or, at least, that is what she would tell her acquaintances. She was actually born on 6 July 1907. Her father was a German photographer who had settled in Mexico City after his epilepsy prevented him from attending university; her mother was of Spanish

and indigenous descent. At the age of six, she contracted polio and was left with a deformed leg. Following her illness, she and her father grew close – perhaps thanks to their shared experiences of disability – and she spent many hours with him in his studio, learning to retouch portraits.

Kahlo was also academically gifted, and at the age of 15 won herself a place at the prestigious National Preparatory School to study medicine. She proved a rebellious student, shunning authority and playing pranks on her teachers. It was during a journey home from the 'Prepa' that the 18-year-old Kahlo fell victim to that fateful bus crash. Of the accident, she wrote: "I sat down at the side, next to the handrail ... A moment or two later, the bus collided with a tram ... It was a peculiar sort of impact.

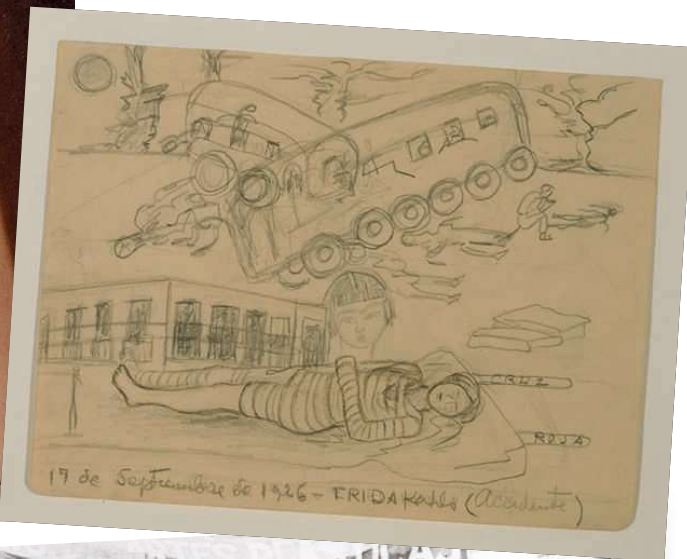
It wasn't violent. It was muffled and slow and it injured everyone ... The impact hurled us forwards and the handrail went into me like a sword going into a bull."

REGARDING HERSELF

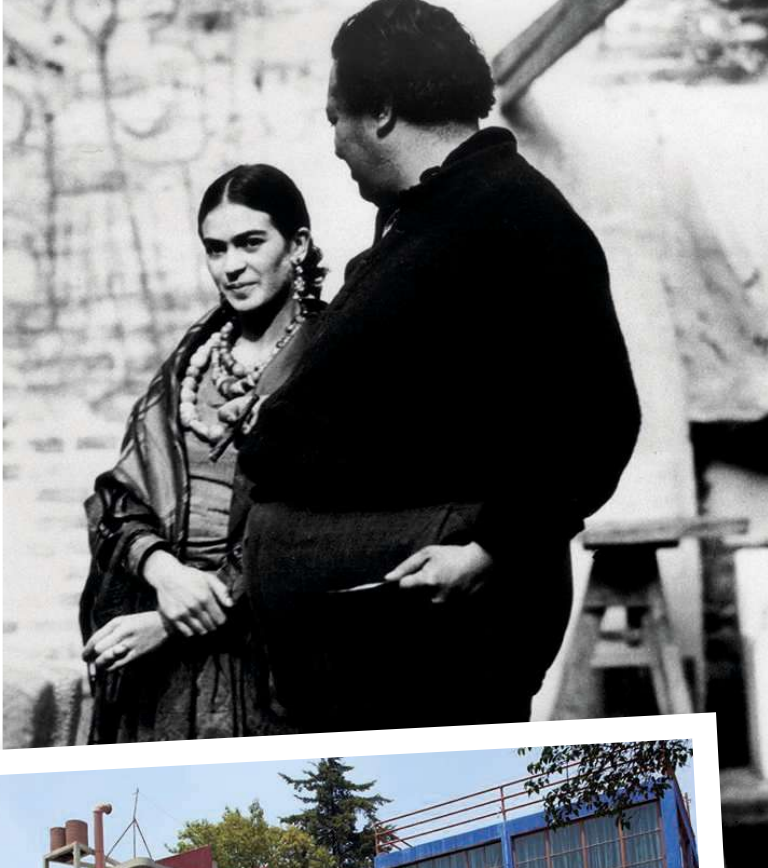
Kahlo sustained a triple fracture to her spine, fractures in her collarbone, ribs and pelvis, a dislocated shoulder, a perforated abdomen and a broken leg. She left hospital after a month, but was bed-bound on-and-off for more than two years. To keep her occupied, her mother had a special artist's easel made that Kahlo could use while lying down, and attached a mirror to the underside of her bed canopy so that she could paint self-portraits. These would be the first of around 55 such works that she would paint during her lifetime. "I paint myself because I'm so often alone," she later said, "and because I'm the subject I know best."

It was not only Kahlo's bones that had been broken by the accident. Also shattered were her dreams of pursuing a medical career, as her spinal and leg injuries meant that she could no longer stand for any sustained period of time. Instead, she began to entertain the idea of becoming a professional artist. In 1928, she joined the Mexican Communist Party, and it was that June, through one of her fellow members, that she got to know Diego Rivera – the man who she would later call her "second accident".

**“In 1928, she met
Diego Rivera – the man
who she would later call
her ‘second accident’”**



ABOVE: Frida (sitting centre) with her sisters Matilde, Adriana and Cristina. ABOVE RIGHT: Kahlo's violent pencil sketch of 'The Accident'. RIGHT: Kahlo and Rivera at the 1929 May Day parade in Mexico City



Rivera was twice Kahlo's age and more than double her weight. With an enormous belly and frog-like features, it may not have been immediately obvious that he was a notorious womaniser. He was also famed across Mexico as a talented muralist and vocal member of the Communist Party.

One day, Kahlo appeared at the bottom of his scaffold in the Ministry of Education, where he was working on 'Creation', and called for him to come down. He obliged, somewhat begrudgingly, but was pleasantly surprised when she presented him with a few of her paintings. He later explained, "The canvases revealed an unusual energy of expression, precise delineation of character and true severity. They showed none of the tricks in the name of originality that usually mark the work of ambitious beginners." She invited him to her home to see more, and the pair soon became an item.

ELEPHANT AND DOVE

When they married in June 1929, Kahlo's father was the only member of her family in attendance. Her mother described it as a union between "an elephant and dove", but her father understood that at least Rivera could pay for the medical treatments that Kahlo would likely require for the rest of her life. At the wedding, Kahlo wore traditional street

ABOVE: The twin houses of Kahlo and Rivera, close but distinctly apart, a mirror of their relationship. TOP: The couple in San Francisco; Rivera divorced the mother of his two children to be with Kahlo

clothes that she had borrowed from her maid, beginning a habit that would continue for the rest of her life.

Every morning, she adorned herself with beaded necklaces, long skirts and embroidered tops in the indigenous style, embracing the Mexicanidad movement that had developed in the aftermath of the revolution. When the pair travelled to San Francisco in November 1930 – Kahlo's first trip outside of Mexico – photographer Edward Weston wrote: "She causes much excitement ... People stop in their tracks to look in wonder."

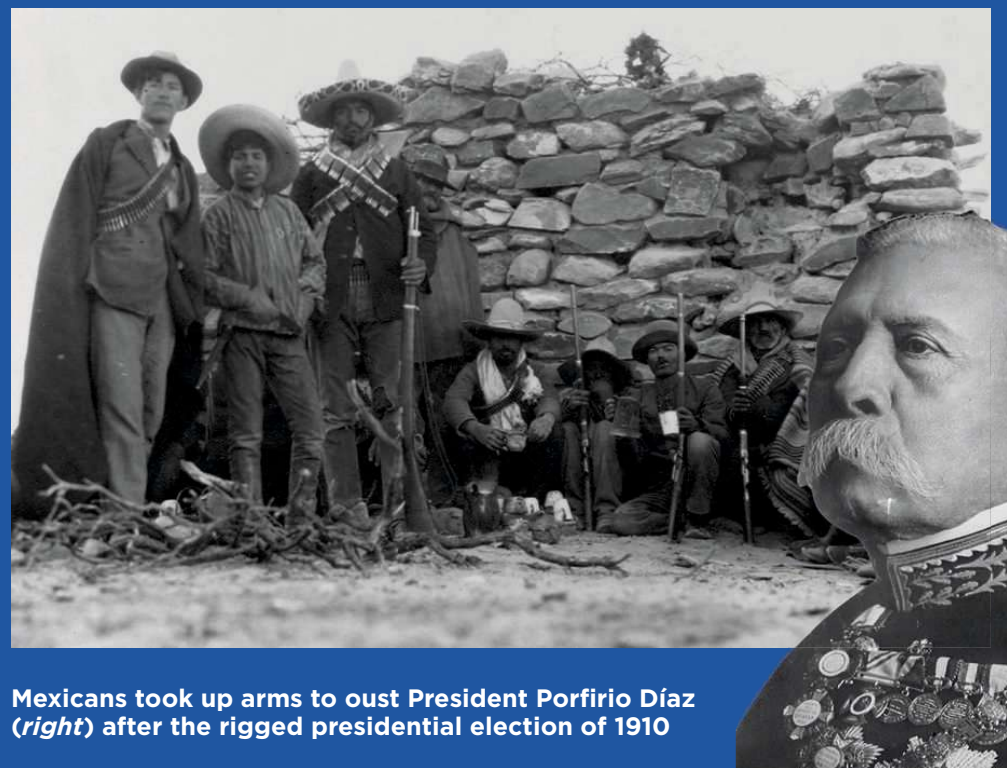
The next year, they returned to the US – this time to New York City, where Rivera would host his first retrospective at the Museum of Modern Art. Kahlo hated their time in the city, describing it as "an enormous chicken coop". She despaired at the gap between rich and poor, and caused a scene in hotels where Jews

A PEASANTS' REVOLT

MADERO, MEXICANIDAD AND REVOLUTION

For 31 of the 35 years between 1876 until 1911, Mexico's president was Porfirio Díaz. His economic policies served only the wealthy, leaving peasants and the working classes unable to make a living. In 1910, as he was running for his seventh term as president, Francisco Madero emerged as leader of the 'Antireeleccionistas' and declared himself a candidate. Madero was arrested and Díaz claimed he had won the election, leading to a revolt by the people. In the spring of 1911, Díaz was forced to resign and Madero was elected president. But with counter-revolutionaries fighting back, the conflict lasted for almost a decade.

Before the revolution, Mexican folk culture – a mixture of indigenous and European elements – was suppressed by the elite, who claimed to have purely European ancestry and regarded the West as the definition of civilisation. The post-revolutionary Mexicanidad movement sought to redefine Mexican identity through the rediscovery of its pre-Columbian and indigenous heritage. Music, fashion, architecture and art were all influenced, as is visible in much of Frida Kahlo's work.



Mexicans took up arms to oust President Porfirio Díaz (right) after the rigged presidential election of 1910

were prohibited. Her language could, at times, be as colourful as her clothes.

It was in early 1932, during a year-long stay in Detroit, that Kahlo fell pregnant. Following the bus accident, she had been told that she would be unable to carry a child to term due to the damage sustained to her pelvis. With a heavy heart, she arranged for an abortion, but later discovered that she was still pregnant. Desperate to have a "little Digueto", she decided to keep the child, but in July she miscarried. The trauma would inspire her to create some of her most controversial pieces to date.

SEPARATE LIVES

With their return to Mexico, Rivera and Kahlo acquired a pair of homes in San Ángel connected via a staircase. Here, the couple would live separately – an arrangement that seemed to suit



Given her affair with Trotsky (second right), Kahlo was briefly suspected of being involved in his murder in 1940



Kahlo shares a tender moment with Rivera. As her condition worsened, she turned to drink to “drown the pain”

Rivera well. He would have Kahlo nearby to organise his personal and work affairs, while also having the freedom to entertain a continual stream of female guests. In the summer of 1934, Kahlo discovered that he was having an affair with her younger sister Cristina. She was devastated and moved out for a while.

Eventually, Kahlo decided to take Rivera back, writing that “all these letters, liaisons with petticoats, lady teachers of English, gypsy models, assistants with good intentions, plenipotentiary emissaries from distant places, only represent *flirtations*, and that at bottom, *you and I* love each other dearly”. In both cases the emphasis is hers, but even so it appears she decided that their marriage would become an open one. She soon began her own affairs, with both men and women.

In September 1936, Rivera appealed to the Mexican President to grant Leon Trotsky asylum in Mexico. The Russian revolutionary leader had lived in exile in Turkey, France and Norway since 1929, and the previous month the Stalinist regime had found him guilty of treason and sentenced him to death in absentia.

Seeing the danger he was now in, asylum was granted, and it was Kahlo who greeted Trotsky and his wife off the boat. The pair were put up in Kahlo's childhood home, La Casa Azul (The Blue House), and she spent many hours there conversing with Trotsky in English – a language that neither of their partners spoke well. Their mutual affection soon turned to intimacy, and they began a passionate affair that would last for the next year.

André Breton, the leader of the

Surrealist movement, travelled to Mexico in 1938, and he too was blown away by Kahlo's work. He declared her a Surrealist, and she was invited by Julian Levy – the owner of a gallery in New York that specialised in Surrealist works – to exhibit there. An essay by Breton appeared in the handout, in which he declared her work a “ribbon around a bomb”. Around half of the 25 paintings displayed were sold.

The following year, Breton arranged for her to exhibit in Paris, and her self-portrait ‘The Frame’ was bought by the



La Casa Azul became the centre of Kahlo's world after her father died in 1911; it was there she kept her menagerie

San Francisco – encouraged her to fly out and see his doctor there. She was prescribed bed rest, a healthy diet and, controversially, a reunion with Rivera

– although the doctor himself declared him “unfit for monogamy”. Rivera agreed and on 8 December 1940 – just a year after their divorce – they were remarried.

Despite her treatment, Kahlo's health problems continued, particularly her back issues, and she was forced to wear corsets made from steel and leather or plaster. She spent much time confined to La Casa Azul, where her only company was her menagerie of pets, including spider monkeys, Xoloitzcuintli dogs and parrots. Her work continued to gain recognition, but she struggled to make a living from it until the mid-1940s, as she refused to adapt her style to suit her clients' wishes.

Kahlo spent much of 1950 in hospital, where she underwent an unsuccessful bone graft that caused an infection and left her wheelchair-bound. Despite this, she continued to campaign for the communist cause, saying, “I must struggle with all my strength to ensure that the little positive my health allows me to do also benefits the revolution, the only real reason to live.”

In April 1953, realising that she was gravely ill, the photographer Lola Álvarez Bravo organised the first solo exhibition of Kahlo's work in Mexico. On the evening of the private viewing, Kahlo was in a particularly bad way, so Rivera arranged for her four-poster bed to be set up in the gallery.

In August, her right leg was amputated at the knee due to gangrene, and she fell into a deep depression. In February 1954, she wrote: “I keep on wanting to kill myself. Rivera is what keeps me from it, through my vain idea that he would miss me ... But never in my life have I suffered more. I will wait a while...”

Kahlo's final public appearance was on 2 July 1954, at a demonstration against the CIA invasion of Guatemala. The event would prove more than her body could handle. On 12 July, she presented Rivera with a ring for their silver wedding anniversary – more than a month early. When he asked why she was doing so, she replied: “Because I feel I am going to leave you very soon.” The next morning, she was dead. The official



Kahlo presided over her first – and only – solo exhibition from her own bed, moved to the gallery for the occasion

“Kahlo struggled to make a living from her work until the mid-1940s”

cause stated was a pulmonary embolism, but many believe she committed suicide by overdose.

It wasn't until the 1970s that Kahlo stopped being known as “the wife of Diego Rivera” and became a name unto herself. In 1976, at the height of second-wave feminism, a documentary titled *The Life and Death of Frida Kahlo* was released. The film exposed her to a public that was now ready for her story, and the feminist, Chicano (Mexican-American) and LGBT communities took Kahlo as their icon. Her fame only continued to grow over the decades that followed, and her image began to appear on T-shirts, mugs and cushion covers. Today, people know her face even if they do not know what she accomplished. In an age when self-portraiture has become the defining visual genre, Frida Kahlo has never been more popular. 📍

Louvre. It was the first work by a 20th-century Mexican artist to be purchased by a major international museum.

UNLIKELY REUNION

Upon her return to Mexico, her relationship with Rivera deteriorated and he requested a divorce. Kahlo was crushed. Over the months that followed, her health worsened and she began drinking heavily. Learning of her condition, Rivera – who had by now been commissioned to paint a mural in



IRENA SENDLER

UNSUNG HEROINE

As a young girl, Irena was taught always to help people, no matter the risk to her own life – it was a lesson that drove her to stand up against the Nazis

IRENA SENDLER

SENDLER'S LIST

Pat Kinsella reveals the remarkable deeds of Irena Sendler, the Polish heroine who saved more than 2,000 Jewish children during World War II, for which she was arrested, tortured and sentenced to death



ON A MISSION

Jews were increasingly persecuted under the Nazi occupation (*left*); Irena (*above*) disguised herself as a nurse to smuggle ghetto children out

During the darkest days of World War II, the Nazis were intensifying their 'Final Solution', systematically transporting and murdering Poland's Jews at a rate of thousands per day. In the midst of the Warsaw Ghetto, one Catholic social worker risked her life by orchestrating an underground operation to save some of the most vulnerable.

Irena Sendler smuggled babies, toddlers and young children out of the ghetto, where the Jewish population was confined. She may have had a small frame and gentle smile, but they belied nerves of steel and a burning resistance to the abhorrent situation she saw unfolding in her country.

Irena also possessed prodigious powers of persuasion, which were vital in convincing complete strangers – families who had literally lost everything except each other – to give up their children for their own good. Those who agreed to suffer such a separation did so only because they knew their own death was imminent, and that their loved ones' infancy would be no defense against a Nazi killing machine hell bent on completing a genocide. The rescued children were deposited into adoptive homes outside the ghetto, or tucked away into convents and orphanages, and given new non-Jewish identities to shield them from further harm.

Despite the extreme extra level of danger it incurred, Irena maintained lists of those saved by the network she built, in which she coupled children's

real names with their assumed identities in glass jars buried beneath a tree. This secret cache could have brought death down upon the heads of everyone involved had it been discovered, but Irena was adamant that the notes needed to be kept so the children could eventually find out who they were and where they came from.

Details of approximately 2,500 souls were sealed in those jars – over twice as many lives as Oskar Schindler saved with his famous list – to be unearthed once the horror had passed. Yet the name Irena Sendler and knowledge of her extraordinary actions, and those of her network of helpers, remained buried for six decades after the end of war.

FIGHTING INJUSTICE

For Irena, born Irena Krzyżanowska, courage was a family trait. Her great-grandfather had led a rebellion against the tsars and her father, a physician, was killed by typhus contracted while providing free treatment to poor patients (including many Jews) who other doctors refused to touch. Irena was just seven when her father died in 1917, but she later recalled how she visited him five days before his death. He whispered a command to his young daughter: "If you see someone drowning, you must rescue him, even if you cannot swim."

She heeded these words throughout her life, during which she would witness some of the worst atrocities in human history, seeing firsthand horrors that many others – individuals, organisations, communities and countries – were

willing to ignore or participate in. At Warsaw University, Irena deliberately sat with Jewish students when they were segregated under the 'ghetto-bench system'. When she defaced her grade card to read 'Jew' out of solidarity and protest against their treatment, the authorities suspended her.

As a social worker in pre-war Warsaw, Irena (now married to Mieczysław Sendler) continued to fight injustice as Polish politics veered to the right and the country's Jewish population faced growing discrimination and destitution. Sendler altered the books to keep people from starving, and she found willing accomplices in her sympathetic supervisor Irena Schultz and manager Jan Dobraczyński.

The two Irenas would become lifelong friends and co-conspirators in ever bigger and more dangerous missions of

GOOD FAMILY

Irena's parents Janina and Stanislaw, who imbued her with the strong drive to do the right thing



ALAMY X1, GETTY X2, SHUTTERSTOCK X2

IN THE GHETTO

The Nazis didn't invent ghettos, but they did weaponise the concept as a tool of ethnic annihilation. During World War II, more than 1,000 were established in Polish cities and annexed parts of the Soviet Union alone, but Warsaw had the biggest. After it was sealed on 15 November 1940, up to 450,000 people were crammed into an area the size of New York's Central Park.

Inside, daily life was overseen by the Judenräte (Nazi-appointed Jewish councils), with SS orders carried out by Jewish policemen, armed with batons. Schooling was outlawed, disease was rampant and food scarce. Children habitually risked potentially lethal punishments to go on begging and smuggling missions into Aryan areas beyond the walls.

Despite it all, underground groups organised cultural, recreational and educational activities, set up soup kitchens and libraries, and even ran a symphony orchestra.

But in the summer of 1942, the liquidisation began, with the transportation of tens of thousands of Jews on Holocaust trains to Treblinka II death camp. As 'Grossaktion Warsaw' gathered pace, and knowledge of the 'Final Solution' leaked out, remaining residents planned armed resistance. On 18 January 1943, when SS soldiers entered the ghetto for the first time in four months, an uprising erupted.

Underground fighters led by the ŻOB (Żydowska Organizacja Bojowa – Jewish Combat Organization) and ŻZW (Żydowski Związek Wojskowy – Jewish Military Union) fought well-armed SS soldiers with stolen and homemade guns and Molotov cocktails, and began executing collaborators.

Militarily, the uprising was doomed, but it helped restore some pride. However, on 19 April – on the eve of Passover – the Germans sent in thousands of troops. By 16 May, when Warsaw's Great Synagogue was destroyed, the ghetto had been completely levelled and 56,065 people had been killed or deported to death camps.



PUSHED OUT
Families were rounded up as Nazi destruction of the ghetto began

“Disease was rampant and food scarce. Children risked lethal punishment to go begging in Aryan areas”

CRUSHED

When the uprising failed, most remaining residents were captured and sent to Treblinka II



**12,000
–15,000**

The number of people that could be gassed to death during a 14-hour working day at Treblinka II



NEW LIVES
Children in the ghetto (left) endured starvation; those saved by Irena, like those pictured above, were given new, gentile identities

100

The number of 15–16 year olds rescued by Irena's network who were directed to join partisan fighters in forests around Poland.

mercy once Poland had been defeated and occupied by Nazi Germany, whereupon the Gestapo began issuing draconian decrees.

Jewish properties, bank accounts and businesses were seized first, and then their civil rights were wiped out. Synagogues were closed and people were forced to wear Star of David armbands to identify them as Jews (which invited violence and harassment from SS soldiers and members of the public). Jews would also be made to slave in labour gangs on projects that included the construction of the walls around what would become the Warsaw Ghetto.

Initially, the Irenas forged signatures and fiddled figures at work to divert funds where they were most needed. Then they began sourcing documents, including passports of dead Poles, that could be used to create new and life-saving identities for Jews.

By the end of 1940, however, Warsaw's entire 400,000-plus Jewish population had been 'quarantined' behind the barbed wire-topped walls of the ghetto, where conditions were horrendously crowded, disease ran rife and thousands starved or froze to death. Still more waif-like figures would arrive at the ghetto gates from elsewhere, among them unaccompanied minors.

“They were smuggled out through sewers and on the back of trucks filled with piles of corpses”

Now working with a network of sympathetic liaison officers, Irena was entirely unwilling to watch these children die on the streets. She began smuggling them out of the ghetto, beginning with an emaciated little girl called Beryl, aged five or six, whom she squirreled out through a courthouse on the edge of the walls.

EXPOSED TO DANGER

Emboldened by the success of Beryl's liberation, and now convinced the Nazis were intent on wholesale murder, Irena adopted the code name 'Jolanta' and upscaled her operations. Exploiting the Germans' terror of typhus and tuberculosis, she managed to access the ghetto disguised as a nurse and visited families, when she would attempt the grim task of “talking them out of their children”, as she starkly put it.

Once under Irena's wing, these infants were smuggled out. They went through sewers, in ambulances and the back of trucks filled with filthy bandages or piles of corpses – any places where the SS were too afraid to search – and housed wherever a spot could be found, which became increasingly difficult.

On occasion, Irena ended up with children in the flat she shared with her ailing mother, desperately trying to avoid attention from curtain-twitching neighbours who may then have reported suspicious activity.

Her colleagues sheltered children too, including Dobraczyński's assistant Jaga Piotrowska, who was excruciatingly aware of the danger she was exposing her daughter Hanna to. The jars of names, a horde of incriminating evidence, were buried beneath an apple tree in her garden.

HEROES OF THE HOLOCAUST

OSKAR SCHINDLER

German industrialist and Nazi Party member, who saved the lives of 1,200 Jewish workers in his factory.

GIORGIO PERLASCA

Italian businessman who posed as the Spanish consul-general to Hungary, and saved 5,218 Jews from deportation to death camps.

NICHOLAS WINTON

◀ British stockbroker (*right*) who evacuated 669 children (mostly Jewish) from Czechoslovakia just before WWII, transporting them through Nazi Germany to the UK. He was assisted in this by Doreen Warriner.

RAOUL WALLENBERG

Swedish diplomat credited with saving thousands of lives in Hungary by issuing protective passports and sheltering Jews in buildings designated as Swedish territory.

CORNELIA 'CORRIE' TEN BOOM

◀ Dutch watchmaker and charity worker (*pictured right*) who, with her family, hid hundreds of Jews from the Nazis.

JØRGEN AND ELSEBET KIELER

Danish doctor and his sister, who helped hundreds of Jews escape from Denmark to safety in Sweden.

DR JANUSZ KORCZAK

◀ Polish educator and children's author (*left*) who ran an orphanage in the Warsaw Ghetto. When the orphans were sent to Treblinka, he refused offers of sanctuary from Żegota (and others), choosing to accompany the children in death.

JAN KARSKI

Polish resistance fighter and spy who toured the ghetto with Irena, then disguised himself as an Estonian guard

to record the transportation of Jews to the camps, which he subsequently described to British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden and US president Roosevelt. Roosevelt asked more questions about the fate of the country's horses than the plight of Poland's Jews. No action was taken to destroy either the death camps or the train lines leading to them.



ESCAPE PLAN

The tree beneath which the children's identities were buried (*above*); orphanage manager Sister Matylda Getter (*top right*); resistance fighter Zofia Kossak (*right*) who helped fund Irena's plan

◀ Boys were harder to place than girls as they were physically marked as Jewish by circumcision, which made many adoptive families nervous. Yet despite the penalty for sheltering Jews outside the ghetto being death, many people continually provided help, such as Sister Matylda Getter, a nun who oversaw 20 orphanages and took in many of Irena's illegal evacuees.

Irena and her liaison officers (nine women and one man, some barely beyond childhood themselves) ran risks so horrendous that they're almost incomprehensible. One slip – an ill-timed cry from a terrified toddler, the slightest betrayal by a member of the brutalised public – would inevitably lead to the death of the child. For the courier, and potentially their entire family, it meant imprisonment, torture and execution.

This awful fate befell several of the network, which filled Irena with guilt, but also terror that her entire operation would be compromised if any details were extracted under torture. She constantly changed the routes out of the ghetto, finding new holes in the wall, and bribing workmen and members of the Jewish police to get children through the gates.

Her ever-changing operations quickly exhausted Irena's meagre means, but news of her actions had percolated out. In November 1942, she was contacted by Zofia Kossak – author, activist and founder of Żegota, the underground

organisation of resistance fighters and organisers in German-occupied Poland. Recognising that Irena had the system and know-how to save people, but not the necessary funds to bribe guards and pay adoptive families, Żegota put her in charge of their children's division and provided 100,000 zloty a month from London. Irena now knew the ghetto so well that she was asked to provide a tour for Jan Karski, an Allied spy and representative of the Polish government in exile, sent to report on conditions behind enemy lines.

But the situation was escalating by the day. In the summer of 1942, the Nazis had begun operation 'Grossaktion Warsaw', rounding up residents of the ghetto, loading them aboard trains and transporting them to a new place called Treblinka, located in a forest 50 miles northeast of Warsaw. The Jews were told they were being taken to labour camps, but reports of Treblinka had already permeated the walls of the ghetto. It was big, said the rumours, but it had no living facilities. A death camp. The Holocaust was upon them.

Amid the liquidation of the ghetto, as some the remaining residents began planning a final fightback in the form of an uprising, Irena continued her mission. Moving quicker between each abode, staying just ahead of the street-by-street round-ups, she had less time to convince petrified parents that they could only save their children by letting

3,000

The approximate number of false documents created by Irena's network and given to Jewish families before she began smuggling children out of the ghetto.

them go. Many realised the truth too late. She once witnessed a woman throwing a newborn baby over the three-metre wall of the ghetto to an unseen saviour on the other side. Such sights, and the fate of those she could not save, would haunt her for the rest of her life.

ARREST AND TORTURE

During the night on 20 October 1943, a Gestapo agent and ten SS soldiers barged into Irena's flat. Although she managed, desperately, to destroy or conceal evidence of recently rehoused children, she was arrested and taken to Szucha #25, the Gestapo headquarters and an infamous place of interrogation and torture. From there, people rarely resurfaced alive.

Unlike other activists, Sendler never carried a cyanide pill to take as a last resort. Now her head hung heavy with a wealth of knowledge that could condemn so many people to death if she broke under the severe physical and

psychological torture the Nazis were about to subject her to. But she didn't break. Not during the daily beatings meted out by her relentless interrogator, Herr Bach, who wanted to know about Żegota; not while under constant threat of imminent death from a firing

AFTER THE WAR
Irena, pictured here in 1948, found it hard to forget the horrors that she'd seen



WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

The SS officer who Żegota bribed to facilitate Irena's escape from Szucha was discovered and executed. Once the Gestapo knew she was alive and free, Irena had to live as a fugitive, avoiding friends and family – even missing her mother's funeral. She moved constantly, even temporarily living at the zoo. By this time – February 1944 – the ghetto had been destroyed and Poland's Jewish population decimated. There were no children left to save, but she continued to support infants that she'd hidden.

When the war finally ended, Irena and Jaga Piotrowska unearthed the jars beneath the apple tree. Some had smashed, ruining the lists, but most were legible. The parents were almost all dead, but Irena hoped to at least reunite children with their real identities. In post-war Poland's shattered society, however, where 95 per cent of Warsaw's population was comprised of displaced people, this was almost impossible. Within two years, Irena had a child of her own, and she handed the lists over to the Central Committee for Polish Jews. It's unknown how many children ever learned their true history.

After 1945, Poland became communist and was soon controlled completely by Stalin's Soviet Union, which suppressed stories of individual wartime heroics and persecuted many involved, including Irena, because of their connections with Polish nationalists.

Irena was recognised by Yad Vashem as one of the Righteous Among the Nations in 1965, and given honorary citizenship of Israel in 1991, but her deeds remained unrecognised in the wider world until 1999, when three schoolgirls from Kansas chanced upon her story during a history project and wrote a play about it. From this unlikely spark, word spread like contagion, leading to an audience with the Pope and the receipt of the Order of the White Eagle (Poland's highest civilian honour) and the Polish-American Jan Karski Award for Courage and Heart in 2003. She was twice nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, in 2007 and 2008.

Irena Sendler died on 12 May 2008, aged 98.

squad; and not as guns were fired indiscriminately by psychopathic guards through a hole in the wall of the cell she shared with seven other inmates in Pawiak prison.

One by one, the women around her were dragged out and executed, often within earshot of her cell. Still, Irena stuck to her story – she was a social worker, guilty of nothing more than compassion, and knew nothing about any secret organisations.

One morning, Irena was loaded onto a truck with ten or 15 other women and taken back to Szucha, where she expected to be executed. Each woman was called into a room, from where a pistol shot rang out. When the name of Irena Sendler was read out, however, she was directed through a different door, where an SS officer dismissed the guard and led her out into the street. The Untersturmführer (who had been bribed by Żegota) told her she was free to go. When she hesitated, he slapped her face.

Barely able to walk, Sendler stumbled into a nearby pharmacy, where a woman helped clean her up and supplied new, non-prison-coloured clothes. Somehow, she made it back to her flat, and the following day her name appeared on the daily red posters that went up around Warsaw, detailing those who had just been executed. For the rest of the war, Irena lived as a ghost. 📍

GET HOOKED

EXPERIENCE

Go on a walking tour of the site where the Warsaw Ghetto stood; or visit Szucha (now the Mausoleum of Struggle and Martyrdom), Pawiak prison and Treblinka death camp.

READ

Life in a Jar: The Irena Sendler Project by Jack Mayer (Long Trail Press, 2005) explores Sendler's deeds, and how three Kansas schoolgirls reignited awareness of her heroism.



LATE HONOURS

Irena twice earned nominations for the Nobel Peace Prize for her heroism

HEDY LAMARR, ACTRESS AND INVENTOR

The Hollywood star's device was meant to help the Allies win World War II. Instead, it would revolutionise mobile phone technology

There was a reason why Hedy Lamarr was known as 'the most beautiful woman in the world'. Even in the Golden Age of Hollywood, the Austrian-born actress stood out as the complete screen seductress and femme fatale. With a penetrating gaze framed by flowing black hair, and an Austrian lilt to her voice, she exuded glamour, sex appeal and an alluring touch of controversy.

Yet there is much more to Lamarr's legacy than beauty. She had the brains, too. It wasn't until years after fading from the public eye that her contributions to radio communications technologies were recognised, but Lamarr is gradually becoming better known for what she did in the world of science than for her cinema career.

ART AND SCIENCE

Hedwig Eva Maria Kiesler grew up in Vienna, Austria, the daughter of a prosperous banker. She was an intellectually gifted

child: by the age of ten she was a skilled pianist and dancer, and spoke four languages. An interest in acting blossomed in the late twenties, and the 16-year-old Kiesler attended a prestigious drama school in Berlin.

She made her movie debut in 1930, and her fame took off with the release of *Extase* (Ecstasy), a notorious Czech film she made in 1932, aged 18, in which she appeared nude.

The scandal created excellent publicity, but her career came to a screeching halt in 1933 when she married the hugely wealthy munitions manufacturer Fritz Mandl. At first she was charmed by him, but soon realised that he was cruel and controlling. He forbade her from appearing in films, and bought as many copies of *Extase* as he could lay hands on so that no-one else could watch it.

She became a trophy wife, attending meetings

and parties with Mandl's business associates including Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini. This was a horrible time for her – she was trapped in a loveless marriage and consorting with fascist leaders – yet she was able to talk with scientists at these meetings, nurturing an understanding of technology that would later prove to be useful.

HOLLYWOOD BECKONS

Her marriage became unbearable, and she decided to flee both her virtual imprisonment and Austria. Various and divergent stories describe how she made her escape. One claims that she drugged a maid and donned the latter's uniform as a disguise. Other anecdotes recounted in her autobiography are more lurid,

"The studio decided that, in order to give her sufficient sex appeal, they will make her faintly stupid. But Hedy is very, very bright."

Composer George Antheil, co-inventor with Lamarr of the frequency-hopping Secret Communication System



Before she was Hedy Lamarr, Hedwig Kiesler found fame and notoriety in the film *Extase* (1932)



While selling war bonds in New Jersey, Lamarr gives the V-for-victory sign to a cheering crowd



MAKE LOVE NOT WAR

During World War II, Lamarr wanted to join the National Inventors Council, but was told she would best serve the effort by selling war bonds, as other actresses did. She raised a **record \$7 million** in a single evening by selling kisses.

and she later sued the publisher, asserting that many of the more prurient episodes were invented by a ghost writer. But though the methods she used to get out of Austria may still be unclear and disputed, her final destination is not: Hollywood.

After meeting renowned film producer Louis B Mayer, she signed with MGM. The 'Ecstasy Lady', as she was known, became Hedy Lamarr and went on to star in a succession of English-language films, beginning with *Algiers* (1938). Lamarr enjoyed acting and was initially wowed at the idea of working with the hottest stars, but always wanted more substantial roles than that of the glamorous femme fatale. "Any girl can be glamorous," she said. "All you have to do is stand still and look stupid."

Over the years she became increasingly frustrated with such roles, spending more time at home with her family. As the demands of her acting career receded, her mind turned to science and inventing.

FREQUENCY HOPPING

When the United States entered World War II, Lamarr was initially persuaded to use her celebrity to promote the sale of war bonds. However, she had long had an interest in science, and was keen to contribute in a more practical way. Having learned about torpedoes during her first marriage to Mandl, she began discussions with her neighbour, avant-garde composer George Antheil, which led to an idea for

a device that could rapidly switch radio frequencies to prevent the jamming of radio signals controlling torpedoes. The pair were reputedly inspired by the 88 keys of a piano: their system used a piano roll to regularly switch the signal between 88 frequencies, making it nearly impossible for an enemy to scan.

They hoped their frequency-hopping 'Secret Communication System', which was granted a patent in August 1942, would protect the US military's radio signals. It was not introduced during the war, but the idea was developed further as technology improved. It was used during the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962, and continued to influence radio communications. Technologies such as Bluetooth and Wi-Fi are, in part, legacies of Lamarr and Antheil's work.

They made no money from it, though: by 1962 Lamarr no longer held the patent. It wasn't until shortly before her death in 2000 that Lamarr (by then a recluse) received acknowledgement for her work with spread-spectrum technology. The Electronic Frontier Foundation honoured both Lamarr and Antheil in 1997, but all she had to say about the award was: "It's about time." 🎯

REACHING ECSTASY

It took eight years for Hedy Lamarr's **scandalous early film *Extase*** to be released in the United States, by which time, she was already a Hollywood star. It had been banned for being "highly, even dangerously, indecent".

In the same year this glamorous publicity shot was taken, Hedy Lamarr patented her pioneering invention



WHAT DO YOU THINK?
Should Hedy Lamarr be remembered for her acting or her inventing?

Email: editor@historyrevealed.com

Dit is een foto, zoals
 ik me zou wensen,
 altijd zo te zijn.
 Dan had ik nog wel
 een kans om naar
 Hollywood te komen.

Anne Frank.
 10 Oct. 1942



(translation)
 "This is a photo as I would wish
 myself to look all the time. Then
 I would maybe have a chance to
 come to Hollywood."

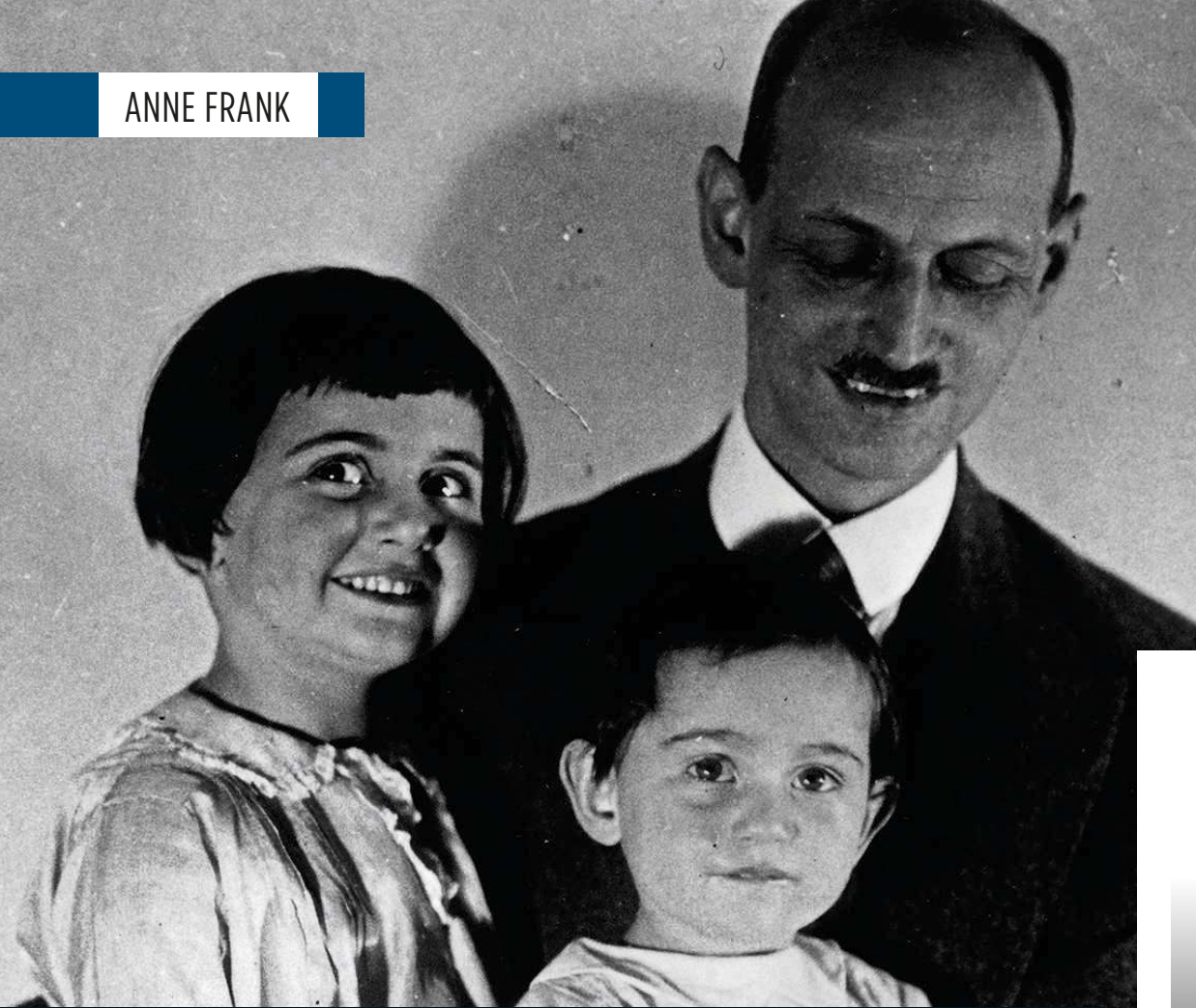
Anne Frank, 10 Oct. 1942

DIARY OF A YOUNG GIRL
 Anne's diary is a beautiful
 account of life as a teenager

ANNE FRANK

VOICE OF THE HOLOCAUST

The diary of a young girl, forced into hiding by the Nazis, offers a unique insight into life for thousands of persecuted Jews during World War II. Her moving diary has touched millions since her death...



MARCH 1933 FLEEING PERSECUTION

A matter of weeks after Adolf Hitler's fiercely anti-Semitic Nazi Party wins power in Germany, Anne Frank's family flees her hometown of Frankfurt for the Netherlands (ABOVE L-R: Margot, Anne and their father Otto).

Four policemen stormed into a canal-side warehouse in western Amsterdam one warm summer's day in August 1944. Inside, cowering among a network of rooms that filled the three-storey building, they found eight Jews, who had been using the property as a hiding place in an attempt to elude the murderous attentions of the city's Nazi rulers.

One of the terrified captives frogmarched out of the building that morning had left behind, in the chaos of her arrest, a small diary, bound in red and white-chequered cloth, as well as exercise books and sheets of paper. Her name was Anne Frank. She was a mere 15 years old, and the thousands of words she had recorded in those pages would make hers one of the most celebrated, and tragic, life stories of the century.

Anne had first caught sight of that little red-and-white book in a shop window while out

walking with her father, Otto, just over two years earlier. Noting her admiration for the book, and with her 13th birthday fast approaching, Otto had secretly returned to the shop to buy it as a present for his youngest daughter.

Anne was naturally delighted and on her birthday – 12 June 1942 – she began recording her innermost thoughts within the pages of the book, which she addressed 'Kitty'. She even adorned that opening entry with something of a manifesto for what she aimed to achieve by starting a diary: "I hope I will be able to confide in you as I have never been able to confide in anyone, and I hope you will be a great source of comfort and support."

On the surface, Anne's earliest diary entries paint a picture of a girl who was little different from any of the thousands of other 13-year-

6 JULY 1942 INTO HIDING

Anne's older sister, Margot, receives a call-up to report for relocation to a work camp. Knowing that this could well mean death, the Frank family decide to go into hiding, leaving a note in their apartment suggesting that they have fled for Switzerland. A three-storey 'Secret Annex' in a nondescript part of Amsterdam – its entrance concealed by a bookcase – will become their refuge from their Nazi persecutors for the next two years.



12 JUNE 1942 A BIRTHDAY PRESENT

Otto Frank returns home with a gift for Anne on her 13th birthday: an autograph book, bound in red-and-white chequered cloth. Anne, who had seen the book in a shop window just a few days earlier, immediately starts using it not to collect autographs but as a diary. Telling it, "I hope you will be a great source of comfort and support", she embarks on one of the most extraordinary and poignant tales of the 20th century.

olds around the world. She wrote of her love of playing table tennis, her dreams of being an actress, and how her entire class was "quaking in their boots" at the prospect of learning their grades. And what 13-year-old's diary is complete without the whiff of teenage romance (in Anne's case, with a boy called Hello Silberberg)?

TIGHTENED GRIP

But in reality, of course, Anne's life was anything but ordinary, for she was a Jew living under Nazi occupation, and that meant that Anne, her older sister Margot, mother Edith and father Otto were subjected to one of the most brutal campaigns of persecution in history.

Anne's account offers us just a hint of the privations with which the family had to contend: "Jews were required to turn in their bicycles," she recorded. "Jews were forbidden to use trams; Jews were forbidden to ride in cars... Jews were not to attend theatres, movies or any other forms of entertainment." Her list goes on and on, as the Nazis continued to

JOHN F KENNEDY
"Of the multitude who throughout history have spoken for human dignity in times of great suffering and loss, no voice is more compelling than that of Anne Frank."





28 MARCH 1944 PUBLISHED WORK

After hearing a member of the Dutch government in exile declare that, once the war was over, he planned to collate diaries written by people living under occupation, Anne begins editing her diary with a view to publication.

tighten their grip on the Jews who lived in their occupied territories.

For all that, the Franks appeared to be enduring – if far from enjoying – the new status quo in occupied Amsterdam. Then in July 1942, they received some post that would turn their world upside down: it was a letter from the SS demanding that Margot report for relocation to a work camp.

Anne was stunned. “A call-up – everyone knows what that means,” she told her diary. “Visions of concentration camps and lonely cells raced through my head.”

She had every right to fear for her sister. With the massed deportations of Dutch Jews to concentration camps in Poland and Germany rapidly stepping up, there was every chance that Margot’s call-up would equate to a death sentence. Luckily, her father – a businessman who had moved his family from Germany to Amsterdam nine years earlier in the wake of Hitler’s rise to power – was used to thinking on his feet, and came up with an ingenious solution.

A few days later, Anne and Margot pulled on as many layers of clothes as they possibly could (it was simply too risky to be spotted with suitcases) and trudged across Amsterdam to an anonymous-looking three-storey building overlooking a canal.

Behind them, they left their house in a state of disarray, adorned with a few bits of

paperwork suggesting the family had fled for Switzerland. It was a ruse, of course, designed to throw the Gestapo off their scent, and it worked perfectly – for the ‘Secret Annex’ in which they set up home, with its entrance concealed by a bookcase, would be the Franks’ hiding place for the next two years.

HIDDEN HOPES

“It may be damp and lopsided, but there’s probably not a more comfortable hiding place in all of Amsterdam,” Anne told her diary shortly after their arrival in the annex. This may appear

“The ‘Secret Annex’, its entrance concealed by a bookcase, would be their hiding place for the next two years.”

a remarkable thing to write for a young girl whose new home had become a prison, who was unable even to peep through the curtains in daylight for fear of detection. Yet it seems that Anne – a creative, disciplined and resourceful girl – was determined to make something of her life in hiding. As she told her diary, she passed her time studying French, maths, history and shorthand (at which she excelled), and

TERROR REGIME NAZI OCCUPATION

When German forces invaded the Netherlands on 10 May 1940, the country was pitched into what was perhaps the darkest period in its entire history. Over the five-year occupation that followed, the Nazis treated the Dutch people with extreme brutality – every man between the age of 18 and 45 was forced to work in German factories, hundreds were shot for acts of resistance, and around 20,000 died in the ‘Hunger Winter’ of 1944-45.

Yet even these horror stories pale when compared with the cruelty inflicted upon the Netherlands’ Jews. As Anne Frank records in her diary, by 1942 Dutch Jews were, among many privations, forced to wear yellow stars, and forbidden from going to swimming pools, tennis courts, cinemas and theatres.

Mid-1942 saw an even more sinister development – the start of the deportation of Dutch Jews to the death camps of central Europe. In 1940, 140,000 Jews had lived in the Netherlands; by the end of the conflict, 110,000 had been murdered. Little wonder then that many chose to go into hiding. Yet this was no guarantee of safety and survival. An estimated 15,000 were discovered and arrested – many, like the Franks, betrayed by Dutch collaborators.

dreaming of the careers she would pursue once the war was over.

Otto, it seems, also attempted to maintain some kind of normality in the Franks’ lives, celebrating St Nicholas Day, a Christian festival, by hiding a basket filled with gifts, and marking the Jewish festival of Hanukkah by lighting candles (though only for ten minutes, as they were in short supply).

But, of course, Anne’s day-to-day life was far from normal, and soon the stress of living cheek by jowl with her nearest and dearest 24 hours a day was beginning to find a voice in her diary. “Margot’s and Mother’s personalities are so alien to me,” she complained in September

1942. “I understand my girlfriends better than my own mother. Isn’t that a shame?”

Such tensions were perhaps inevitable, and were only going to get worse on the arrival of four more Jewish fugitives in the annex – first Mr and Mrs van Pels and their son, Peter; then a dentist called Fritz Pfeffer (in the published diary, their names were changed to the van Daans and Albert Dussel, respectively). This



22 MARCH 1944 LOVE IS IN THE AIR

Anne confides to her diary that “true love may be developing in the annex”. She is referring to her feelings for Peter van Pels (above). “Not that I’m thinking of marrying him,” she adds.

development seems to have proved something of a double-edged sword for Anne – she was excited by the prospect of seeing new faces in the annex but was soon telling her diary that her new roommate, Mr Pfeffer, was petty and pedantic after he repeatedly chastised her for being too noisy.

Before long, Anne had another reason to resent Pfeffer’s presence in the annex, and that was for the news he brought with him of the terrible fate facing thousands of Dutch Jews – arrests, beatings and, for many, deportation to the death camps.

Anne’s terror that she would be betrayed and forced to endure a similar fate seemed to grow with the passing months. “At night I see myself in a dungeon, without father and mother,” she wrote in November 1943. “Or they come in the middle of the night to take us away and I crawl

under my bed in desperation.” A series of ‘near-misses’ – an attempted burglary on the annex, shots being fired outside, unexpected knocking on the annex door – only added to the tension.

Yet Anne steadfastly refused to give in to terror. “As long as it exists, this sunshine and this cloudless sky, and as long as I can enjoy it, how can I be sad?” is an expression of joy in life that is scarcely believable given her situation.

LOVE STORY

By 1944, Anne had another reason to see joy in the world around her, and that was in her growing romance with Peter van Pels. “I think, Kitty, that true love may be developing in the annex,” she triumphantly announced to her diary in March 1944. “All those jokes about marrying Peter if we stayed here long enough weren’t so silly after all.”

We know that the two youngsters kissed in the annex, and that Anne’s affection for her young housemate both thrilled and comforted her. Tragically, we also know that whatever plans the two harboured for the future were never to be realised.

NELSON MANDELA

“Some of us read Anne Frank’s diary on Robben Island and derived much encouragement of it.”



END OF THE LINE
Jews from across Nazi-occupied Europe arrive at Auschwitz in 1944

4 AUGUST 1944 BETRAYAL


The moment that had haunted Anne’s nightmares for two years materialises as a group of German policemen, tipped off by an unknown informer, raids the annex and arrests its inhabitants. A month later, the group is transported to Auschwitz and put into forced labour. By November, Anne and her sister Margot are, along with 8,000 other women, transported to another infamous concentration camp, Bergen-Belsen.

On 15 July 1944, Anne wrote: “It’s difficult in times like these: ideals, dreams and cherished hopes rise with us, only to be crushed by grim reality.” Two weeks later, that grim reality caught up with the residents of the annex when they were betrayed and arrested. The identity of their informer remains unknown to this day.

A month after her arrest, Anne was deported, along with her mother, father and sister, to Auschwitz. On arrival, the three women were separated from Otto, had their heads shaved and were tattooed with an identifying number on their arms. From there, they were forced into slave labour.

By November 1944, Anne was on the move again, this time to the infamous Bergen-Belsen camp in northern Germany. Margot accompanied her, while Edith was left behind in Auschwitz, where she died of starvation a few weeks later. Details of what happened next remain sketchy. What we do know is that two inmates who met Anne at Bergen-Belsen describe a bald, emaciated, shivering girl. Within months, she and Margot were dead, probably killed by a terrible outbreak of typhus that swept the camp in early 1945.

Less than a year before she lay dying in Bergen-Belsen, Anne had written: “I don’t want to have lived in vain like most people. I want to be useful or bring enjoyment to people, even those I’ve never met. I want to go on living even after my death!”

For all the tragedy of her short life, the diary she left the world, and the remarkable story it tells, ensured at least that her wish was more than borne out. 



EARLY 1945 AN UNTIMELY DEATH

A typhus epidemic sweeps through Bergen-Belsen, killing 17,000 prisoners, among them probably Anne and Margot. We can't be sure when Anne died but it may have been a matter of weeks before the camp was liberated on 15 April 1945. No one knows the location of the sisters' final resting place – they were buried in an unmarked mass grave – but today a memorial on the Bergen-Belsen site (above) pays tribute to the pair's resilience and suffering.

“When everyone starts hovering over me, I get cross, then sad, and finally end up turning my heart inside out, the bad part on the outside and the good part on the inside, and keep trying to find ways to become what I'd like to be... if only there were no other people in the world”

Anne's final words in her diary, 1 August 1944

A GLOBAL BESTSELLER THE STORY OF THE DIARY

On 20 June 1942, Anne Frank confided to her diary: “It seems to me that, later on, neither I nor anyone else will be interested in the musings of a 13-year-old schoolgirl.” History was, of course, to prove Anne spectacularly wrong, as her diary was to become one of the 20th-century's most acclaimed pieces of literature.

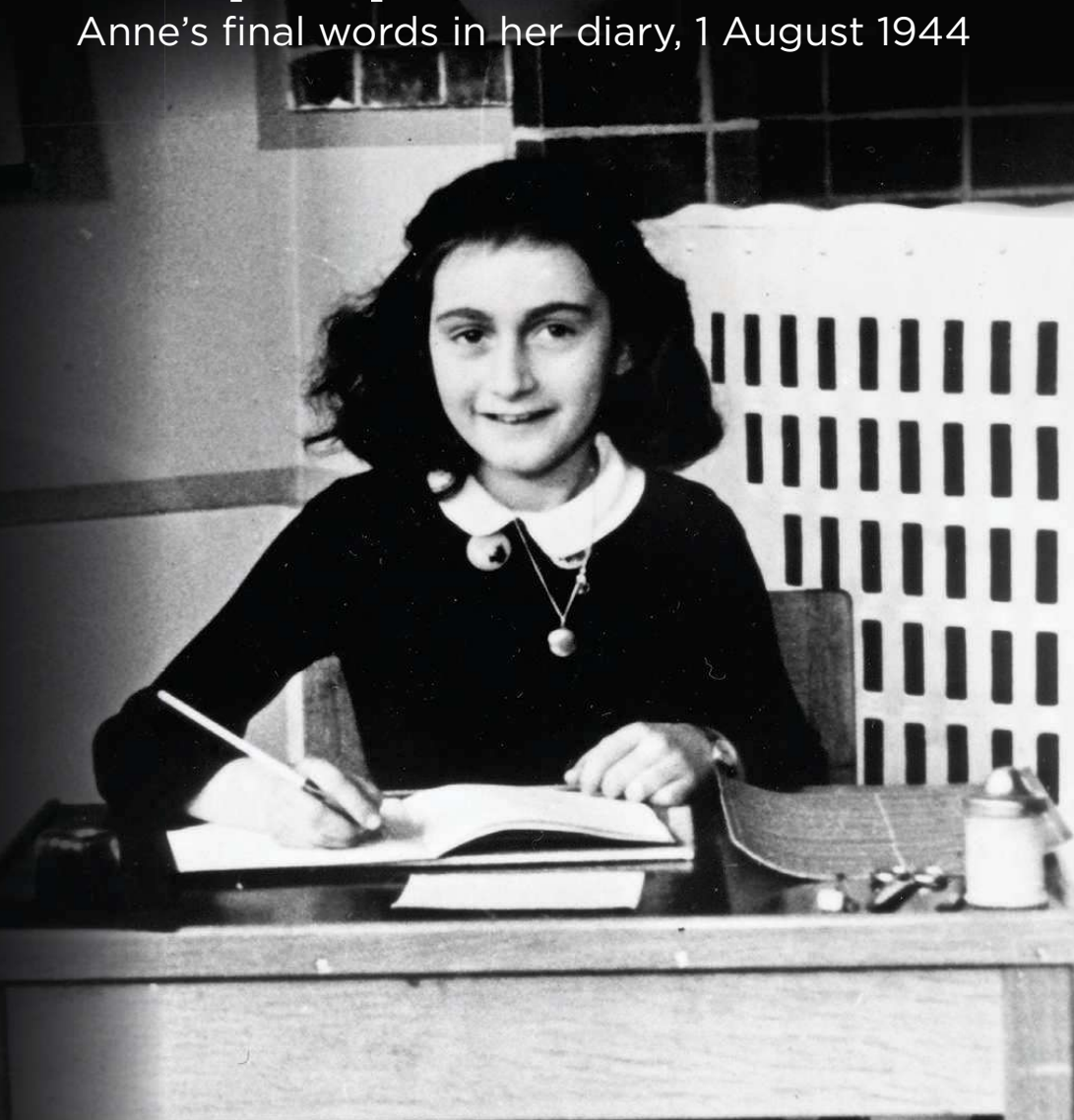
The diary's journey from Amsterdam annex to global phenomenon began on the day of Anne's arrest. Miep Gies – one of those who helped conceal the Franks in their hideout – discovered the writings while picking her way through the annex in the wake of the family's betrayal, and resolved to give it back to Anne after the war. Tragically, this would prove impossible, and so Miep handed the diary to Anne's father, Otto, on his return to Amsterdam from Auschwitz in the summer of 1945. A few months later, Otto wrote to his mother: “I cannot put it down. It is unbelievably engrossing.” This would be a sentiment shared by millions.

Inspired by Anne's dream of seeing her words published, Otto endeavoured to find a publisher for the diary.

Within a few weeks, it had made its way to a Dutch historian, Jan Romein, who wrote in the former resistance paper *Het Parool*: “This apparently inconsequential diary by a child... embodies the hideousness of fascism... more so than all the evidence at Nuremberg put together.”

Romein's words struck a chord for, by the early fifties, the diary had been published all over the world. It also spawned a play, which later won a Pulitzer Prize for Drama, a film, which was a critical and commercial success, and a number of TV productions.

Another landmark date in the diary's story was 3 May 1960, when the Anne Frank House – situated in the secret annex in which the young girl hid – opened its doors to the public. In that first year the house attracted 9,000 visitors. By 2013, now boasting an exhibition on Anne's life, an installation dedicated to all forms of persecution, and a reconstruction of the annex in the forties, that number had soared to 1.2 million – proof, if ever it was needed, of Anne's enduring impact.



MAIN: Anne writing at her desk at school in Amsterdam, 1940
RIGHT: Anne's diary first came to the public's attention on the front page of *Het Parool*
FAR RIGHT: A Dutch first edition of Anne's diary *Het Achterhuis* (*The Annex*)



Daily Mirror

3d. Monday, June 17, 1963

No. 18,503

Valery Bykovsky.



Laughing Valentina
(*'I'm feeling fine'*)
spins on towards
her historic date



Valentina Tereshkova.

BOY MEETS GIRL IN SPACE TODAY?

The Profumo Scandal 'OPERATION WHITEWASH'

IT was "Operation Whitewash" this weekend, with every available Cabinet Minister and Tory spokesman sweeping up as much of the Profumo dirt as possible before today's crucial debate.

Be fair to them in their plight. They did not try to conceal their dismay and they did not attempt to gloss over the facts about the Profumo scandal.

But hands were on hearts, consciences were displayed on sleeves, and haloes were carried "at the ready."

"It is silly to make a Party issue of this," said Lord Hailsham, raising the curtain with quivering rage on television. "This is a national moral issue."

MIRROR COMMENT

As if the entire British public had been caught in bed with Miss Keeler.

Mr. P. last night took a very British view of the nation's heart. "It is quite obvious that foreigners are not in our country is

Hailsham,

thinks it is a Party (or at any rate, a political) issue and not a national issue.

Mr. Maudling, the Chancellor, did not minimise the seriousness of the Profumo case. But—

"I emphatically repudiate, and indeed bitterly resent these generalised

Continued on Page Two



COUNTDOWN IN RED SQUARE

THE time is two minutes past three by the clock in Moscow's Red Square. Two thoughtful young people are counting the hours to an adventure in Space. They are

Lieutenant-Colonel Valery Bykovsky and the world's Spacegirl No. 1, Lieutenant Valentina Tereshkova. They are expected to keep a date in Space, soon—and it may be today.

Russians plan a rendezvous 140 miles up

SPACEGIRL Valentina Tereshkova, 26, may keep a historic date in Space today with 28-year-old cosmonaut Valery Bykovsky.

Yesterday Valentina, the first woman in Space, was blasted into an orbit almost identical to that of Bykovsky, who went up Friday.

by
RONALD BEDFORD
Mirror Science Editor

They are expected to try to link up their Spaceships as they speed more than 140 miles above the Earth.

Bigger

As soon as her Spaceship, Vostok VI, was settled in orbit, Valentina (call sign "Seagull") spoke on the radio to Valery (call sign "Hawk") in Vostok V. British Space scientists to whom I talked last night think that Valentina will keep Vostok VI on its planned course while Bykovsky catches her up in orbit.

Bykovsky is believed to be piloting a much bigger Spaceship—probably weighing up to ten tons and fitted with auxiliary rocket motors.

Link-up

The motors will enable him to manoeuvre Vostok V until it is sufficiently close to Vostok VI for the two craft to be joined.

This could happen some time today—though the Russians might leave the actual link-up until later this week, when they have had

more time to calculate the precise positions in Space of the two craft. The Americans—who will not be able to attempt the feat until Autumn next year—call this kind of get-together the "rendezvous technique."

Joining two craft in orbit is the next major advance in the Space race.

It paves the way for the building of a Space station, or platform, which would serve as a staging post for trips to the Moon or beyond.

Excited

Bachelor-girl Valentina was blasted away from Russia's "Cape Canaveral" at Baykonur, in Kazakhstan, at 9.30 a.m. yesterday.

Soon after take-off, Moscow Radio beamed her excited voice to millions of Russians.

Valentina cried: "Here is Seagull. I see a yellow strip. I see the Earth. Everything is in order. I'm feeling fine. The machine is working well."

In London, radio monitors heard her say to Soviet Space headquarters: "Thank you for your congratulations."

Later, pictures of Valentina, laughing and smiling, were flashed on to Soviet television screens.

The highest point of Valentina's orbit is 144 miles, the lowest 113 miles. Valery Bykovsky's

**Continued on
Back Page**

VALENTINA TERESHKOVA, THE FIRST WOMAN IN SPACE

On 17 June 1963, the maiden voyage of one Soviet Cosmonaut made headlines

The Soviet Union took a comfortable early lead in the Space Race – they sent up the first satellite (Sputnik), animal (Laika the dog) and man (Yuri Gagarin). Then, in mid-1963, the Russians were first to put a woman into orbit.

Valentina Tereshkova had volunteered for cosmonaut training in the wake of Gagarin's historic flight in 1961. She wrote a letter begging to go to space, citing amateur parachuting as her experience, and was selected as her poor textile worker image fit the Soviet ideal of a proletarian hero.

On the morning of 16 June 1963, Lieutenant Tereshkova – codenamed 'Seagull' – boarded Vostok 6, clad in an orange spacesuit and a white helmet emblazoned with 'СССР' (the abbreviation of the Soviet Union). The launch took place without a hitch as a smiling 26-year-old Tereshkova beamed: "Hey sky, take off your hat! I'm coming to see you!"

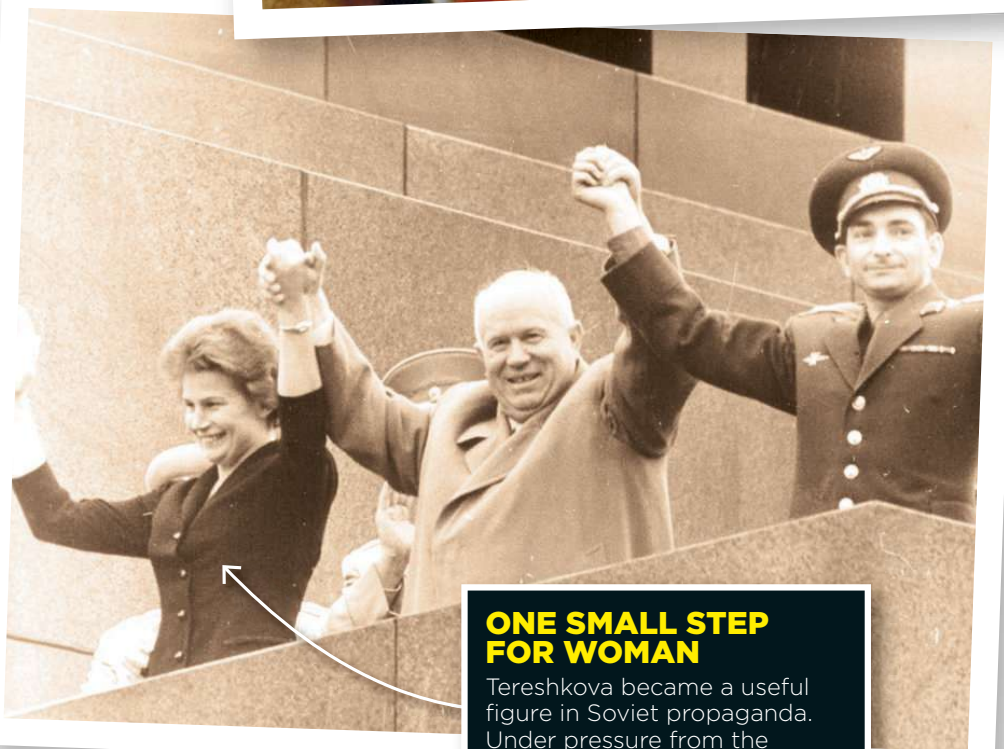
Her initial jubilation was slightly marred by nausea and discomfort in the 2.3-metre-wide capsule. It has recently been revealed that Tereshkova also forgot her toothbrush, so had to use her finger. Yet she logged more flight time than all the American astronauts combined at that point, completing 48 orbits in 71 hours, and she successfully communicated with fellow cosmonaut, veteran Valery Bykovsky, when her craft came within three miles of his Vostok 5.

Following her safe return on 19 June, Tereshkova was whisked to a grand ceremony in Moscow. In attendance was Soviet premier Nikita Khrushchev, who gave Tereshkova a hug before the crowd, both to welcome her home and to show off his nation's dominance in space. Tereshkova never left Earth again. 📍

GOOD SOVIET

RIGHT: **Valentina Tereshkova in the final preparations before her launch**

BELOW: **At the celebrations, Soviet premier Nikita Khrushchev raises the hands of his cosmonauts Tereshkova and Valery Bykovsky**



ONE SMALL STEP FOR WOMAN

Tereshkova became a useful figure in Soviet propaganda. Under pressure from the leadership, she **married fellow cosmonaut Andriyan Nikolayev** and entered politics.

AMAZING WOMEN IN HISTORY

From ancient rulers such as Nefertiti and Zenobia, through medieval giants Eleanor of Aquitaine and Isabella of Castile, to Victorian pioneers including Mary Anning and Ada Lovelace, and those who pushed the boundaries of 20th-century science, like Marie Curie and Valentina Tereshkova, these women lived amazing lives...

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